

Proceedings

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION OCTOBER 1999



VOLUME LXXII



Welcome to the 72nd National FFA Convention

Excitement, anticipation and a feeling of pride was in the air as FFA members from across the country converged at the new home of the national FFA convention.

"FFA-Lighting Up Louisville" fireworks show, pictured on the front cover, is sponsored by Fastline Publications.

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Proceedings

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION OCTOBER 1999
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signature of success

table of contents

100% Membership States	52
Agri-Entrepreneurship Awards	11
Agriscience Fair	16
Agriscience Student	
Recognition Program	15
Agriscience Teacher of the Year	16
Alumni Convention	57
American FFA Degrees	26-35
Band	21
Business	63
Career Development Events.....	18
Career Show & Hall of States	60-61
Chorus	20
Committee Reports	
Auditing	76
Agricultural Education Trends	66
Career Success Activities	68
Chapter Activities	67
Communications & Public Relations	69
FFA Publications	70
Leadership & Personal Development	71
Marketing & Merchandising	72
Membership, Recruitment &	
Participation	74
National FFA Convention	77
Nominating	76
Partner Development	75
Program of Activities	73
Convention Overview	3-7
Convention Speakers	40-41
Courtesy Corps	62
Distinguished Service Citations	58
Extemporaneous Public Speaking Contest	14
Foundation Sponsors	58-59
Honorary American FFA Degrees	54-55
H.O. Sargent Award	17
International Programs	56
National Chapter Awards	50-51
National Officer Candidates	10
New National Officers	78
Official Delegates	64-65
PALS	56
Prepared Public Speaking Contest	12-13
Proficiency Awards	22-25
Retiring Addresses	
Lisa Ahrens	36-37
Abby Dougherty	48-49
Andy Armbruster	46-47
Emily Buxton	44-45
José Santiago	38-39
James Garner	42-43
Stars Over America	8-9
Talent	19
VIP Citations	53

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welcome to Louisville



A silhouette of patriotism is the backdrop for National FFA Talent participants.



An astounding number of blue and gold jackets could be seen making their way through the grounds of the Kentucky Fair & Exposition Center during the course of the convention.

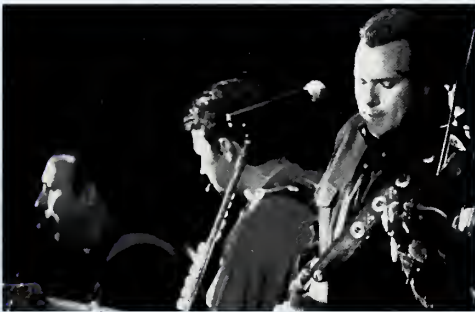
Billboards said it, hotel marquis posted it, restaurant centerpieces had it and Louisvillians said it, "Welcome to Louisville," they all echoed. "Welcome FFA!" During the week, as the 72nd National FFA Convention kicked off for the first time in Louisville, attendees looked for ways to make their unique mark on the FFA—their own signature of success.

The convention proved that a geographical change did not affect the excitement and enthusiasm carried by FFA members.

To maintain a quality experience for members, teachers and guests, the National FFA Organization made a historical decision to move the national FFA convention from Kansas City to Louisville, after 71 years. The convention proved that a geographical change did not affect the excitement and enthusiasm carried by FFA members. The 46,918 convention attendees helped rewrite history in Louisville. An astounding number of members dressed in their official blue and gold jackets could be seen making their way through the grounds of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center for the first time.

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All but three career development events were held onsite, headliner musical concerts raised the roof in Broadbent Arena, convention sessions in Freedom Hall housed almost 17,000, the career show boasted 349 exhibitors (the largest ever) and the FFA shopping mall doubled in size! Every square foot of the Kentucky fairgrounds met an FFA member; students sent electronic postcards from computer stations, listened to rivoting convention speakers, played frisbee on the front lawn and chowed down on culinary delights.



The festivities began on Wednesday evening with "FFA-Lighting Up Louisville." A spectacular fireworks display lit the Kentucky night sky just outside of the convention fairgrounds to kickoff an exciting week of competition, friendship and education. Members carried this energy with them throughout the week. They applied their industry knowledge by competing in career development events. Students interacted with business representatives and expanded their career horizons at the national agricultural career show. Louisville tour sites, like Churchill Downs and Papa John's, experienced the impact as most set record attendance numbers.



The convention hall will come to order! In a united effort, the national officers and staff call to order another year of unforgettable memories.

Ricochet (photo at left) delighted the audience with their energy and musical talents in Broadbent Arena.



The national officer team helped debut the John Deere Winston Cup NASCAR race car and the driver, Chad Little. The car was on display throughout the week of convention.

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The school bus is on the road again! This trip takes passengers to the new, exciting destination of Louisville, Kentucky, location of the 72nd National FFA Convention.

Vans, busses, cars and planes full of wide-eyed members and guests pulled into the Kentucky fairgrounds not knowing what to expect. But, Louisville hospitality volunteers stood ready to greet convention attendees. With maps in hand, students and advisors turned to these hospitality volunteers for advice, directions and guidance on the new city, new facilities, new restaurants and new activities in which to participate. Each volunteer hoped to make the transition to Louisville an easy one by providing useful information about local restaurants, hotels and educational tours.

As members ventured into the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center for the first time, they experienced an overwhelming sense of pride. Some were attending the national FFA convention for the first time, while others were seasoned veterans, but a feeling of belonging enveloped students as they listened to motivational speakers and national officers. The spectacular laser shows added to the excitement of convention sessions. And, band, chorus and talent selections showcased the talents of FFA members across the nation.

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FFA members enjoyed documenting the first national convention held in Louisville.

**National officers
shared messages
of hope,
overcoming
mediocrity and
reaching out to
others in time
of need.**



Through leadership workshops, FFA members learned to cultivate their own signature of success by setting goals and putting a plan of action in place. On the main arena stage, the spotlight shined on model chapters, 100% membership states, proficiency finalists, public speakers, degree candidates and others as they were recognized for strengthening their state, their chapter, their community and themselves.

Speakers provided students with motivation and inspiration to improve the quality of life for themselves and those around them. Emory Austin told students, "Rarity is where leadership of the premier kind, comes from." Acclaimed actor Danny Glover challenged FFA members to continue serving others for the benefit of the whole. Dave Roever left members teary-eyed and renewed after conveying his message of courage and hope for the future. National officers shared messages of hope, overcoming mediocrity and reaching out to others in times of need.

The largest-ever national agricultural career show gave members insight about opportunities in colleges, businesses and most of all, the FFA. Meanwhile, the FFA shopping mall allowed members and guests to take a part of Louisville and the national FFA convention home with them.



These students took time to relax and enjoy the warm weather on the front lawn.

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Beyond the convention sessions and activities, FFA members chose to make their mark on the Louisville community as well. More than 700 second-, third- and fourth-graders participated in a mentoring activity with FFA members. Youngsters learned about the vital role of agriculture and participated in team-building and personal growth activities. State officers from around the country educated students in Jefferson County classrooms about the important role of agriculture in everyone's lives. FFA's commitment to community also resulted in chapters from all 50 states pairing with local schools and Kentucky Harvest to help feed Louisville for a day by collecting 15 tons of donated food.

The national FFA convention theme, "FFA—Signature of Success," encouraged members to take the experiences and energy gained at the convention back to their local communities and instill a fresh perspective in their programs. While learning about the fundamentals of agriculture, members also learned about the fundamentals of life: hard work, business management, effective communication skills, teamwork, integrity and problem-solving.

In an age where the media deliver story after story of school shootings, this inaugural Louisville convention celebrated what's truly right with today's youth. FFA members ready and willing to give back to local communities. FFA members striving to make a positive difference in the lives of others. FFA members committed to maintaining and sustaining America's foundation—agriculture. FFA members left the convention inspired to return to their chapters with a new purpose—to better themselves and their communities with their own signature of success.



Money rains down on the arena in celebration of the \$7.3 million raised for FFA and agricultural education programs and scholarships.



A desire to develop their career skills brought these FFA members to Louisville. They participated in the Meats Evaluation and Technology Career Development Event.

stars over america

With hearts racing, the eight finalists of the Stars Over America contest eagerly awaited the announcement of their names. They would soon know the outcome of one of the most prestigious awards in the FFA. The students had already gathered years of valuable work experience, gone through rigorous rounds of interviews and inspections of record books, as well as conducted filming visits to their businesses and farming operations.

As finalists were introduced on stage, they were awarded \$1,000. The national winners received an additional \$1,000. Parents of the finalists were each presented with the Honorary American FFA Degree to recognize their contributions to their children's success.

Stars Over America Film is sponsored by the Farm Service Agency, United States Department of Agriculture and the General Fund of the National FFA Foundation. Cash awards for the national finalists and winners are sponsored by the executive sponsors of the National FFA Foundation.



American Star Farmer Michael Springer and American Star in Agribusiness Jay Harris proudly display their hard-earned awards.

stars over america



Jay Harris, 22
Alexander, Illinois
Franklin FFA Chapter

Harris managed a herd of more than 2,100 hogs on land that his grandfather left him selling the property to finance his equipment sales operation. He currently sells equipment including combines and heads, used tractors and parts with sales stretching over 24 states and internationally. Aside from buying and selling equipment he designs, builds, tests and markets his own line of planters. He currently employs four part-time mechanics and a truck driver.



Michael Springer, 21
Independence, Kansas
Neodesha FFA Chapter

Over eleven years ago, Springer started a 15-calf bottle operation with the financial support of his parents. By 1995, his calf herd went from 15 to 99. That same year he moved into pork production, building a farrowing house and nursery and established a 36-sow herd. He purchased 230 acres and farm equipment to increase the value of his operation. In cooperation with his father and grandfather, he plans to expand the farm to 2,000 farrow-to-finish sows and 6,000 acres of cropland.



Astonishment, excitement and disbelief were written all over Michael Springer's face as he was named the American Star Farmer.

american star in agribusiness finalists



Kyle Bailey, 22
Middlesburg, Indiana
Fairfield FFA Chapter

At 14, Bailey was the youngest ever graduate of Kentucky Horseshoeing School. Following a two-year apprenticeship, he started building up his own clientele and today shoes more than 400 horses. He reads and studies current research reports, farrier publications and attends technical seminars. Bailey relies on modern technology, using video and computer equipment, to diagnose and treat equine lameness. A firm believer in community support, he regularly speaks to children's groups on the importance of proper shoeing.



Charles Hale, 20
Sterling, Oklahoma
Sterling FFA Chapter

Hale started with a small cow/calf operation and one riding lawn mower. During the next year, he financed a new tractor, loader, post driver, box blade and welder and began custom spraying. Hale is certified in Restricted Use Pesticide application and is a certified pipeline welder. Hale estimates spraying over 35,000 acres in 1999. Future aspirations include operating a full-service farm center or securing a position with a top chemical company.



Jeff Weber, 21
Pilot Point, Texas
Pilot Point FFA Chapter

Weber acquired a small loan as a freshman to purchase equipment to cut and bale hay to feed his own cattle herd. Seeing opportunity, he began contracting his services to farmers and now employs five people. In the future, Weber hopes to expand his business in custom and hay brokerage in North Central Texas.

stars over america

american star farmer finalists



Brad Baumgardt, 21
Sleepy Eye, Minnesota
Sleepy Eye FFA Chapter

As a freshman, Baumgardt rented 160 acres of land from his father producing corn and soybeans. He then increased the capacity of his land to 480 acres, expanded from crops to livestock and purchased a semi-trailer for hauling grain and livestock. In addition, he began finishing hogs, a business that has grown to finishing 1,000 head of hogs at a time. In the past year, he purchased 166 acres and became a partner with 40 percent ownership of Baumgardt Family Farms, Inc. His future plans involve expanding the family farm and marketing manure from his swine operation as fertilizer.



Justin Jordahl, 21
Alden, Iowa
Iowa Falls-Alden FFA Chapter

At 15, Jordahl secured some financial support from his grandmother and renovated an unoccupied hog barn at home. He then contracted pigs from a local farmer and began finishing the hogs. His expansion continued with the construction of four 1,200-head confinement hog units. Jordahl, has learned the importance of maintaining the health of his animals and the efficiency of his buildings, saving him money and enabling him to capitalize on his investments. His future plans include operating a farrow-to-finish hog enterprise and farming 1,600 acres of land.



Erika Kenner, 21
Leeds, North Dakota
Leeds FFA Chapter

Kenner purchased her first heifer in fifth grade with a loan from her grandfather. From that first heifer she expanded to a herd of heifers, purchased her first Morgan horse which she trained for show and diversified her operation to a variety of crops. Her crops include durum, wheat, canola, sunflowers and flax. She has also experimented with embryo transfer to increase the quality of her herd and started advertising her cattle to familiarize herself with the promotion side of the industry.

national officer candidates



A total of 36 candidates competed for the six national officer spots for 1999-2000. These candidates displayed their outstanding talents, abilities and knowledge through oral and written interviews and exams.

Becoming a national FFA officer is a dream for thousands of FFA members. Only six outstanding members are chosen each year. Thirty-six candidates earned their American FFA Degree and were chosen as their states' one candidate for a national office. Convention week kept the candidates active with a written exam, a writing exercise and six interview rounds with the nominating committee, which chooses the six national officers.

The suspense ended Saturday afternoon when the national officer nominating committee submitted their report to the convention session. The convention floor erupted with enthusiasm as, one by one, the names of the new officers were announced.

The team will spend the next year, visiting each state as well as Japan. We praise these members for serving their state organizations and congratulate them on a job well done.

National Officer Candidates
reception sponsored by ABG, Inc.

ALABAMA: Jamie Shay Jones, Billingsley
ARKANSAS: Samantha Easley, Emerson
COLORADO: Clint Wedel, Burlington
CONNECTICUT: Erin Sepe, Woodbury
FLORIDA: Chris Vitelli, Plant City
GEORGIA: Carol Lea Spruill, Jackson County
IDAHO: Laban Molsee, Deary
ILLINOIS: Jay Harris, Franklin
INDIANA: Jodee Ruppel, Manchester
KANSAS: Leslie Small, Arkansas City
KENTUCKY: Matthew Ingram, Bath County
MAINE: Nicholas McCrum, Mars Hill
MICHIGAN: Lori Preston, Branch Area Career Center
MINNESOTA: Kara Elizabeth Ladlie, Albert Lea
MISSISSIPPI: Courtney Scoggin, Newton Municipal
MISSOURI: Travis Lathrop, Nevada
MONTANA: Jason Jimmerson, Conrad
NORTH CAROLINA: Sara Lane, Bartlett Yancey
NEVADA: Davida RaeAnn Nash, Silver Sage
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Elizabeth Kaiser, Pinkerton
NEW MEXICO: Marshall Baker, Texico
NEW YORK: Katie Lynn Bear, Greenville
NORTH DAKOTA: William White III, Turtle Lake-Mercer
OHIO: Joseph Shultz, Indian Lake
OKLAHOMA: Joshua Chad Brecheen, Coalgate
PENNSYLVANIA: Herb Hoffeditz, Conococheague
SOUTH CAROLINA: Kimberly Green, Manning
SOUTH DAKOTA: Tiffany Anderson, Lemmon
TENNESSEE: Karen Lynn Adams, South Greene
TEXAS: Brandon Hill, Martin
UTAH: Rodney Spencer, Morgan
VIRGINIA: Johnny Davis, Atlee
WASHINGTON: Nathan Hahner, Liberty
WISCONSIN: Nathan Russell, Shullsburg
WEST VIRGINIA: Roger Hanshaw, Clay County
WYOMING: Traci Walton, Star Valley

agri-entrepreneurship awards



Students with self-motivation, determination and business savvy were honored at the entrepreneurship awards. Sponsored by and in partnership with the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. Sponsored by and in partnership with the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

Self-initiative, determination and dedication are inherent qualities visibly recognized in the nine FFA members receiving an Agri-Entrepreneurship Award. As entrepreneurs, these nine finalists have successfully laid the groundwork and set a precedent for fellow members through personal commitment of starting their own enterprise. For their accomplishments, the finalists were awarded at the fifth convention session.

Dr. Robert Strom of the Kauffman Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership presented each winner with a plaque and a check for \$1,000. In addition, each advisor received a check for \$500 with which to promote entrepreneurship in their chapters. The Agri-Entrepreneurship Education Program is a joint activity of the National FFA Organization, the U.S. Department of Education and the National FFA Foundation.

Joseph Bachman of Metamora, IL, owns Bachman's Craft Making, a business in which he produces and markets five wood crafts including a birdhouse bench, a flat bench, wheelbarrow planters, butterfly houses and birdhouses. He started his business by selling to friends and neighbors. He then expanded into flea markets and craft shows and now his work is consigned to craft shows that sell his product for a commission.

Chris Blaser of Green Bay, WI, owns a market gardening company that produces vegetables, fruits and syrup throughout the summer months for sale at markets in the Green Bay area. He plans to increase his business by expanding to market outlets and potentially selling at farmers' markets five days a week if an ample supply of product is available.

Cecilia Carreño of Lompoc, CA, owns Cecilia's Flowers, a business she started her freshman year due to an interest in floral crops. She began by purchasing poinsettias, caring for and selling the poinsettias to school employees at Christmas. Her business has since expanded with knowledge of advertising, packaging and delivery as well as adding corsages, bouquets and arrangements to her product line.

Adam Hahn of Cambria, WI, owns Hahn's Hay Service, which provides quality grass and alfalfa hay for local area horse owners. He realized the potential for this business with the increasing number of ranchettes and the local Amish community. His customer base has expanded to include the Chicago Zoo, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, the Green Lake County Highway Department and others due to his marketing strategies utilizing business cards, conventional ads and the Internet.

Tracy Hanger of Chandler, AZ, is the sole proprietor of Sequoia Crop Consulting providing field scouting services to growers. Services include crop maturation, laboratory analysis, insect pest management, biological control of pest and defoliation. Hanger developed an extensive business and marketing plan that outlines her goals for the company over the next five years. Hanger's major selling point that sets her aside from other crop consulting businesses is biological control.

Larrie Faulkner of Judith Gap, MT, began a partnership during his freshman year that created the Montana Worm Farm by raising his own night crawlers for fishing. He has since expanded to raising worms to break down compost as a source of fertilizers. With a grant from the Alternative Resources Energy Organization he has been able to purchase red wigglers for composting, offer household and yard waste collection and solid and liquid organic fertilizers.

Dustin Murphy of Opelika, AL, owns a business that supplies utility trailers to the local community and surrounding areas. His business has grown from 11 trailers due to a reasonable price, a large sales volume and advertising in farm bulletins. He keeps detailed records, prices and other pertinent information on each trailer, inspects all trailers for safety and has found it more economical to buy trailers in a large quantity to be successful.

David Schroeder of West Point, NE, is planning the start of his own business: A'la Heart Meals to Go, to offer low cholesterol, sodium and sugar a la carte entrees to people with special needs throughout the community. Through research, he concluded that quick, healthy meals are not available in his community, motivating him to test and modify recipes. The meals will be prepared on a pre-ordered basis and delivered to the client.

Ryan Sweeney of Mason, MI, founded RPS Enterprises, a fabrication company specializing in building livestock equipment. He began in 1997 building blocking chutes, and now builds sheep stands, displays for show cattle, calving gates and custom handling facilities and hog gates. He attends trade shows to increase sales and has learned about marketing products, creating budgets and keeping accurate financial records.

Deanna Thies of Glasgow, MO, owns The Veggie Patch, a fruit and vegetable business that includes several specialty varieties of squash, tomatoes and okra, catering to her target market, the local Asian community. She markets her product at one of two local farmer markets five days a week, advertises in a local magazine and on a local radio station. She has expanded into cut flowers, perennial plant production, pumpkins and gourds.

prepared

public speaking



Prepared public speaking national winner, Elio Chiarelli, Jr. of the HG Parkinson FFA Chapter in Pennsylvania, impressed audiences with knowledge in his speech entitled, "Is Anything Safe to Eat?"

A national finalist in prepared public speaking is not the only person that can recite his or her speech word for word. Mom, dad, agricultural instructor, the family dog and a brother or sister heard that speech so many times they could recite it together as a chorus.

The time and commitment of the speaker can start up to a year prior to nationals, a path beginning at the local level, continuing through to district, state and then the final destination, national convention. The journey is long, but the benefits and knowledge acquired are plentiful.

The finalists dedicated countless hours of research, practice and constructive criticism to writing and learning a six to eight minute speech about an agriculturally related topic. After speaking, each finalist entertained a five-minute question and answer period with the judges.

Sponsored by FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group.

is anything safe to eat?

**National Prepared Public Speaking Winner:
Elio Chiarelli, Jr., Pennsylvania**

Picture this. It is a Sunday night, and you and your family decide to go out for an evening meal. A new all-you-can-eat buffet restaurant recently opened a few miles away. Just like the hundreds of other people in your community, you decide to test the new cuisine. Upon your arrival, you are seated by fast, courteous servers. As you look around the restaurant, you notice the clean and sanitary environment, which is expected from a new establishment. After your drinks are served, you are asked to help yourself to the buffet.

Hungry, you and your family pick up a plate and decide to begin with a salad, but there are a few problems. As you reach for the lettuce, you cannot help but think of last night's shocking news report about the amount of pesticide residue found within a head of lettuce. As your stomach turns, you move ahead. You are now at the condiments section of the salad line and notice those nutritious alfalfa sprouts that everyone says are so good for you. However, before you indulge in a plate full of seed sprouts, you remember that more than twenty thousand people in North America alone contracted salmonella from eating contaminated alfalfa sprouts. Finally, you forget

about the salad section and move on to the "real" food. The main dishes for this evening's buffet all contain meat. That's fine, right? Except for a few problems that come to mind, such as a ground beef recall in the state of Washington, the listeria found in Oscar Mayer meats, or the discovery that stated one out of every three chickens contains salmonella. When all is said and done, you look down at your empty plate and begin to ask yourself, "Is anything safe to eat?"

A task force of the Council for Agriculture Science Technology, a private organization of food science groups, estimates that each year 6.5 to 33 million cases of food-borne illness occur in the United States and 9,000 people die. While many reported cases from food prepared by commercial or institutional establishments, sporadic cases and small outbreaks in homes are considered far more common. If we increase the awareness of food safety in the food industry and then inform consumers about how to handle food safely, the risk can be greatly reduced. We as a society, must realize that food can make you sick, but it is nothing to fear if you simply know the facts!

What the public should understand is that food safety does not rely on the producers and inspectors alone. The consumers themselves have one of the largest roles in the food safety circle. An area that must be placed under scrutiny is your own kitchen. For example, what comes to mind when you think of a clean kitchen? Shiny polished floors? Spotless stainless steel sinks? Gleaming counters and neatly arranged cupboards? Yes, that all helps, but I am speaking of the truly clean kitchens, one that relies on more than just looks; it also depends on safe food practices. Right now, there may be an invisible enemy ready to strike in your home. That enemy is called bacteria and it can be very harmful or even deadly. Even though consumers cannot see, smell or taste this bacteria, millions of strands can be invading food products, kitchen surfaces, knives and other utensils. Fortunately, consumers have the power to fight bacteria and keep foods safe. A few of the recommended ways to ensure safe food include:

1. Refrigerate or freeze food at or below 40 degrees,
2. Keep raw meat and poultry

- separate from other foods,
3. Wash working surfaces and hands after touching any food products,
4. Cook foods thoroughly to an internal temperature of at least 140 degrees, and
5. Keep hot foods hot and refrigerate leftovers immediately or discard.

In a perfect food safety world, none of the problems that I have mentioned would exist, but the possibility of this happening is remote. In fact, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology said, "The zero risk of microbiological hazards is not possible and no one method will eliminate all pathogens or toxins from the food chain." Further, the council's report stresses what food safety and public health officials have already recognized, that everyone in the food system, from producers to people who prepared the products, must be observant in controlling food hazards. A problem occurs when consumers do not always take the time to wash hands and utensils or thaw meat properly. Emerging pathogens are demanding greater food safety vigilance than was required in previous generations. To expand the problem, the food

safety supply has even become global, with many different countries supplying food products to the United States. We can all relate to more food being prepared and consumed away from home. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that consumers spend 43 cents of every food dollar eating out. In addition, an increasing amount of food prepared away from the home is then packaged for later consumption, thus creating new opportunities for mishandling. Finally, adding to the challenge, microorganisms continue to adapt and evolve, often increasing their degree of resistance.

We must accept it: American consumers are becoming more concerned about their food and its safety. In fact, food safety has surpassed crime prevention, health and nutrition, environmental protection, water quality, and recycling as the most important public issue. Fortunately, many organizations ensure the products we consume each day are not only safe but also healthy. Many agencies have over a 90-year history of protecting the public from unwholesome and unsafe food so that you and your families' safety will be ensured. So, the next time you decide to visit the new restaurant a few miles away, purchase groceries at the nearby supermarket, or simply open your own refrigerator, you should never be asking yourself, "Is anything safe to eat?"

Notes

- 1 Anter, John. (1999, February 29). Is anything SAFE to eat? FARM and DAIRY, 13.
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prepared

public speaking

The ability to think quickly on their feet, attain a wealth of knowledge on various agriculturally related topics and remarkable speaking skills, are prime characteristics for the extemporaneous public speaking participants.

This year's finalists possessed all of these traits and traveled far to compete here in Louisville for the national title. Each contestant was given 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech on a randomly drawn agriculture topic.

**National Extemporaneous Public Speaking Winner:
Robyn Sites, Oklahoma**

Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation

Robyn Sites of Oklahoma pleased the audience with her quick thinking and oration abilities as she walked away with the title of national extemporaneous public speaking winner.



extemporaneous public speaking

The topic that I have chosen today is the effect of labeling foods concerning GMO's and points of origin. In his speeches and on his web site, the Prince of Wales declares he would never eat the stuff and would not allow it to be grown on his land. Former Beatle Paul McCartney, when he learned that traces of it could be found in his late wife Lynda's vegetarian food line, reacted with the same fear and revulsion, as do most Britons. He ordered that the offending ingredient be removed immediately.

British tabloids now provide an advice column on how to avoid feeding the stuff to your pets. And, vandalism often occurs in the fields where it is grown. Indeed, not only in Britain, but throughout Europe, widespread resistance has occurred to any imported food—an action that could provoke a major trade war with the United States.

However, if you live on this side of the pond, you may be dimly aware of what the British tabloids refer to as "Franken-food" or genetically modified organisms. And, chances are, that even you today may have had some for breakfast or have some for lunch, and definitely will have some for dinner. A major revolution has occurred in the American food supply. For many years, due to technology, we have been able to cross trace from plants to make them higher quality and provide more food value. However, due to gene splicing, we are now able to take a gene from one organism and place it into another.

Therefore, a gene from a cat could be placed into a dog, or a gene from a sole bacterium could be

placed into a tomato. The first genetically modified crop, introduced by Monsanto, was the Flavor Saver Tomato. It hit store shelves almost five years ago today. In 1998, 25 percent of corn, 38 percent of soybeans and 45 percent of cotton in the United States was genetically modified. Everything from soft drinks to the cereal you eat for breakfast contains corn or soybeans that are genetically modified organisms.

Monsanto, who is the leader of genetically modified organisms, or GMO's, says we are headed into a green revolution. Already, GMO's have reduced the cost of production for our farmers and improved our yields. Farmers no longer have to worry about as much pesticides and herbicides, because these plants already contain the nutrients enabled to avoid applying more pesticides.

However, widespread criticism has occurred in the United States and throughout the European Union, ranging from human health, environmental issues, trade sanctions and whether genetically modified organisms should be labeled also with their point of origin. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, the U.S. will begin long-term studies of genetically modified organisms, because the European Union has now passed a de facto moratorium on all imported GMO crops.

Just as we remember the touching stories in the early 1990's of a family having to leave their home because the industry where they worked was being shut down. The cotton industry was being reduced in the United States because of consumers buying clothes from other countries. "The touch, the feel of cotton" spurred the United States to support their nation. We are hoping the same thing will happen when we begin to label genetically modified organisms.

The United States has always been more up-to-date on the technology, because they believe that the United States Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, have the right technology in order to look at these crops and determine if they are affecting our environment and are healthy for human consumption. The European Union has a more resistant side, because they have just faced the "mad cow" disease and lysteria.

The number one rule in agriculture is, "The consumer is always right." The second rule is, if you don't believe the first rule, you'd better look again. The consumer determines what is being used. Genetically modified organisms must be looked at and determined if they are safe for human consumption. I believe this issue should be met with not only open arms but, with at least, an open mind. Thank you.

agriscience

student recognition

program

national finalists:

Dustin McDonald

Galt FFA Chapter, Acampo, CA
Advisor: Cheryl Reece

Jacob Rudnick

Kern Valley FFA Chapter, Onyx, CA
Advisor: Gerald Wenstrand

William Dukes

Lake Butler Sr. FFA Chapter,
Lake Butler, FL
Advisors: Tom Williams,
Charlotte Emerson & David Harris

Carl Clark

Algona FFA Chapter, Algona, IA
Advisor: Brad Greiman

Paul Wichmann

Pelican Rapids FFA Chapter, Dent, MN
Advisor: Bill Januszewski

Shaundra Schaff

Absarokee FFA Chapter, Fishtail, MT
Advisor: Tim Zumbrun

Brock Howell

Prosser FFA Chapter, Prosser, WA
Advisors: Stewart Padelford,
Todd Dezzellum & Rick Adams

Jeana Little

Sumner FFA Chapter, Sumner, WA
Advisors: Greg Pile & Rusty Finch



Shaundra Schaff, agriscience student of the year, is congratulated by her agriculture instructor as finalist Paul Wichmann of Minnesota looks on.

Sponsored by Monsanto and the
National FFA Foundation General Fund

Shaundra Schaff, of Absarokee, Montana, was honored as national winner in the FFA Agriscience Student Recognition Program. Schaff's project was entitled "Biological Control of *Euphorbia esula* a Noxious Weed." The purpose of Schaff's study was to investigate biological controls of leafy spurge and the various delivery systems to administer the control.

Schaff received \$5,000 in cash scholarships and a plaque for her achievements. Schaff is a member of the Absarokee FFA Chapter and is advised by Tim Zumbrun.

This year's national runner-up was Paul Wichmann of Dent, Minnesota. His project involved analyzing methods of soil aeration on golf courses to relieve soil compaction and bulk density while increasing water infiltration and encouraging root development. Wichmann received \$3,000 in cash scholarships and a plaque. Wichmann is a member of the Pelican Rapids FFA Chapter and is advised by Bill Januszewski.



Runner-up, Paul Wichmann is congratulated by Abby Dougherty. He analyzed methods of soil aeration for the competition.

teacher of the year

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.

agriscience teacher of the year

National Winner:

Stacy Byrd, Eagle's Landing FFA Chapter, McDonough, GA
Dr. Ralph Lynch, Principal

National Finalists:

Robert Actis, Sierra FFA Chapter, Tollhouse, CA

Mr. Doug Jones, Principal

Mary Parton, Kennedy FFA Chapter, North Miami Beach, FL

Ms. Kay Mikulas, Principal

Brian Hendrickson, Montello FFA Chapter, Montello, WI

Mr. James Halberg, Principal



Stacy Byrd beams with excitement after being named, Agriscience Teacher of the Year. Byrd, a Georgia instructor, is congratulated by Abby Dougherty.

Stacy Byrd's ingenious approach to teaching modern technology received national recognition at the 1999 National FFA Convention with the honor of Agriscience Teacher of the Year. Byrd, agriscience educator and FFA advisor at Eagle's Landing High School in East Point, Georgia, earned a \$1,500 cash award and a plaque recognizing her exemplary teaching skills. Byrd's commitment and endless desire to implement high-tech, diversified agriscience curriculum in her former high school earned her the opportunity to design and build a new program and facility at Eagle's Landing.

Byrd's agriscience program includes instruction in small animal care, aquaculture, animal anatomy, physiology and water, chemistry, horticulture, food science, entomology and general sciences. Since Byrd's arrival, Eagle's Landing FFA membership has increased to 130, and administrators have demonstrated their support by announcing their intention to place agriscience programs in three other county high schools.

The Agriscience Teacher of the Year program recognizes outstanding agricultural education instructors who emphasize agriscience technology in their curricula through programs in biological, environmental and agribusiness technologies, and engineering sciences.

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund and Caterpillar Agricultural Products Inc.

agriscience fair

The Agriscience Fair allowed students to compete in science-based projects in four divisions: division I (7-9th grade), division II (10-12th grade), division III (team, 7-9th grade) and division IV (team, 10-12th grade). Each winning participant receives either a cash award or scholarship. All division winners are presented their award on the main arena stage during national convention sessions. The categories in each division are: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science, Botany, Engineering, Environmental Science and Zoology. The Agriscience Fair allows students to compete in science-based projects in four divisions. Each winning participant receives either an award or a scholarship. The categories in each division include Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science, Botany, Engineering, Environmental Science and Zoology.

WINNERS INCLUDE:

Category: Biochemistry/Microbiology/Food Science

Division I: Greg Striemer, Lake Park Audobon FFA Chapter, Minnesota

Division II: Todd Wilt, Jefferson FFA Chapter, West Virginia

Division IV: Debra Smith and Lisa Sanderson, Sumner FFA Chapter, Washington

Category: Botany

Division I: Tony Heldorfer, North Kossuth FFA Chapter, Iowa

Division II: Paul Wichmann, Pelican Rapids FFA Chapter, Minnesota

Division III: Brian Collins and Jacob Gordon, Burlington FFA Chapter, Oklahoma

Division IV: Molly Klassen and Louie Larson, Benson FFA Chapter, Minnesota

Category: Engineering

Division I: Ken Smith, Fallbrook FFA Chapter, California

Division II: Grant Streimer, Lake Park Audobon FFA Chapter, Minnesota

Division III: Eric Davis and Steven Lay, Judson FFA Chapter, Texas

Division IV: Elaine Pearson and Michelle Griffith, Sumner FFA Chapter, Washington

Category: Environmental Science

Division I: Bryan Tamm, Delavan FFA Chapter, Illinois

Division II: Brooke Findley, West Central FFA Chapter, Iowa

Division III: Valerie Smythe and Erick Carlson, Middletown FFA Chapter, Delaware

Division IV: Jim Self and Emily Robertson, Childress FFA Chapter, Texas

Category: Zoology

Division I: Karese Metzler, Fallbrook FFA Chapter, California

Division II: Nicole Allen, Lake Crystal FFA Chapter, Minnesota

Division III: Maria Chauncey and Danielle Kertzman, Rapid City FFA Chapter, South Dakota

Division IV: Jessica Geistweidt and Jason Potthoff

H.O. sargent awards



The H.O. Sargent Award is given to individuals who exemplify creating diversity. Back Row: David Frazier, Eva Griffin, James Knight, Graze Page, Jessica Skinner, Angela Rose Guidry and Jane Calloway of Merial sponsors. Front Row: Amanda Dahkhoff.

Dr. H.O. Sargent was a pioneer in founding New Farmers of America, an organization for African-American students that merged with the FFA in 1965. Sargent's efforts began in 1928 with the creation of the New Farmers of Virginia. The idea spread to other southern states, prompting the birth of the New Farmers of America in 1931.

The H.O. Sargent award carries the dream of creating new opportunities in premier leadership, personal growth and career success in agriculture. In 1995, the organization began to honor both members and adults across the country who work to promote diversity in agricultural education and the FFA.

This year's student winner was Jessica Skinner of the South Rowan FFA Chapter in China Grove, North Carolina. Skinner organized a tutoring program for students with limited English speaking skills, called English for Students of Other Languages (ESOL). More than 25 volunteers have committed one hour each week to work with these students. The program has prompted the high school principal to start a similar program.

Adult recipients, Dr. James Knight, Eva Griffin and David Frazier received a plaque and national recognition during the session. Knight, of Tucson, Arizona, has directed or co-directed a dozen projects on diversified recruitment and retention of students in non-traditional areas. Griffin, of Malone, Florida, has helped increase minority enrollment in the FFA chapter by four times and expanded the chapter's membership as a whole. As the Snyder FFA Chapter Advisor and agriculture teacher in New Mexico, David Frazier helped develop programs to involve minority, at-risk and special-needs students in his FFA chapter.

Sponsored by Merial

H.O. Sargent non-member

National Recipients:

ARIZONA: James A. Knight, Associate Professor of Agriculture Education, Tucson

FLORIDA: Eva Griffin, Parent Educator, Malone

TEXAS: David C. Frazier, Snyder

H.O. Sargent member

National Finalists:

INDIANA: Angela R. Guidry, Triton Central FFA, Fairland

MINNESOTA: Amanda Dahlhoff, Murray County Central, Slayton

NORTH CAROLINA: Jessica Skinner, South Rowan FFA, China Grove

TENNESSEE: Grace E. Page, Dyer County FFA, Newbern



Jessica Skinner shows her excitement after being named the student H.O. Sargent award winner.

career development events

Years of study, training and practice paid off for the winners of the National Career Development Events. Teams from across the United States competed for top honors in event areas from forestry to agricultural mechanics. Participants evaluated, identified, analyzed, tasted, sniffed, repaired and calculated—all in hopes of achieving top honors.

The results of each event were announced at sponsor-hosted award banquets at the end of the week. During Saturday afternoon's session, the high team and individuals took the stage to receive recognition for their achievements.

Agricultural Issues Forum

Sponsored by Elanco Animal Health, A Division of Eli Lilly and Company

Winning Team: Ritzville FFA Chapter, Ritzville, Wash.

Agricultural Mechanics

Sponsored by Bridgestone/Firestone Trust Fund and Firestone Ag Tire Division

Winning Team: Shelbyville FFA Chapter, Shelbyville, Mo.
High Individual: Colleen Griswold, Shelbyville FFA Chapter, Shelbyville, Mo.

Agricultural Sales

Sponsored by Asgrow Seed Company

Winning Team: Newburg FFA Chapter, Newburg, Mo.
High Individual: Darcy Vial, Newburg FFA Chapter, Newburg, Mo.

Creed Speaking

Sponsored by Papa John's International, Inc.

High Individual: Michael Van Winkle, Nettleton FFA Chapter, Nettleton, Ark.

Dairy Cattle Evaluation

Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc., and Westfalia SURGE, LLC

Winning Team: Putnam County FFA Chapter, Eatonton, Ga.
High Individual: Bill Dick, James Wood FFA chapter, Winchester, Va.

Dairy Foods

Sponsored by Dairy Farmers of America, Inc., and Dairy Management, Inc.

Winning Team: LaVernia FFA Chapter, LaVernia, Texas
High Individual: Rebecca Reeves, LaVernia FFA Chapter, LaVernia, Texas

Environment and Natural Resources

Sponsored by Michelin North America, Inc., and Mississippi Chemical Corporation

Winning Team: South Rowan FFA Chapter, China Grove, N.C.
High Individual: Brent England, Crossville FFA Chapter, Crossville, Tenn.

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Sponsored by American Farm Bureau Federation

High Individual: Robyn Sites, Mountain View-Gotebo FFA Chapter, Mountain View, Okla.

Farm Business Management

Sponsored by John Deere

Winning Team: Vale FFA Chapter, Vale, Ore.
High Individual: Chris Culver, Fruitland FFA Chapter, Fruitland, Idaho

Floriculture

Sponsored by American Floral Endowment, Ball Horticultural Company, The Scotts Company/Ortho Business Group, and Sun Company

Winning Team: Eastern Randolph FFA Chapter, Ramseur, N.C.
High Individual: Holly Somers, Stevens Point FFA Chapter, Stevens Point, Wis.

Food Science and Technology

Sponsored by Kellogg Company

Winning Team: Clear Lake FFA Chapter, Houston, Texas
High Individual: Julia Goshorn, Clear Lake FFA Chapter, Houston, Texas

Forestry

Sponsored by Champion International Corporation, International Paper, and Schrade Cutlery

Winning Team: Pocahontas FFA Chapter, Dunmore, W.Va.
High Individual: Brandon Johnson, Bibb County FFA Chapter, West Blocton, Ala.

Horse Evaluation

Sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund-Dodge Trucks; and Manna Pro Corporation, "The Calif Manna Company"

Winning Team: Arroyo Grande FFA Chapter, Arroyo Grande, Calif.
High Individual: Alaina McBride, Arroyo Grande FFA Chapter, Arroyo Grande, Calif.

Livestock Evaluation

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.

Winning Team: Crater FFA Chapter, Central Point, Ore.
High Individual: Julie Miles, Bear River FFA Chapter, Grass Valley, Calif.

Marketing Plan

Sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company

Winning Team: Battle Lake FFA Chapter, Battle Lake, Minn.

Meats Evaluation and Technology

Sponsored by Excel Corporation; Hormel Foods Corporation; and Oscar Mayer Division, Kraft Foods, Inc.

Winning Team: Clovis FFA Chapter, Clovis, Calif.
High Individual: Jeremy Uhrig, Clovis FFA Chapter, Clovis, Calif.

Nursery/Landscape

Sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company; Kubota Tractor Corporation; Valent USA Corporation; Environmental Industries, Inc.; and American Nursery & Landscape Association

Winning Team: Chatham FFA Chapter, Bear Creek, N.C.
High Individual: Ryan Pulman, Southwest Star FFA Chapter, Okabena, Minn.

Parliamentary Procedure

Sponsored by Novartis Crop Protection, Inc.

Winning Team: Troy FFA Chapter, Troy, Mo.

Poultry Evaluation

Sponsored by Rhone-Poulenc Animal Nutrition and Tyson Foods, Inc.

Winning Team: Riesel FFA Chapter, Riesel, Texas
High Individual: Brandon Cope, Riesel FFA Chapter, Riesel, Texas

Prepared Public Speaking

Sponsored by FMC Corporation, Agricultural Products Group

High Individual: Elio Chiarelli, Jr., H.G. Parkinson FFA Chapter, McDonald, Pa.

national FFA talent

Sponsored by Ford Division – Ford Motor Company

ALABAMA: Sara Borchik, Enterprise; Jennifer Gagnon, Enterprise; Ben Henson, Enterprise; Rich Clark, Eufaula; Mitch Gissendaner, Eufaula; Henry Hughes, Eufaula; Matt Panjic, Eufaula; Becca Sandifer, Eufaula; Rish Spurlock, Eufaula; Caleb Gray, Isabella; Jarrod Smitherman, Isabella; Joshua Smitherman, Isabella; Kevin Smitherman, Isabella; Sharlon Taylor, Isabella; Deana Berry, Red Bay; Devin Dotson, Red Bay; Kristin Holland, Red Bay; Derek Humphries, Red Bay; Maria Humphries, Red Bay; Katie James, Red Bay; William James, Red Bay; Gannon Nunley, Red Bay; David Stovall, Red Bay
ALASKA: Michael Mickelson, Cordoya; Jason Norris, Cordoya; Malani O'Toole, Cordoya; Angela Oudean, Cordoya; Annalisa Tomfelt, Cordoya
ARIZONA: Crystal Gillham
COLORADO: Jessica Unruh, Cheyenne
GEORGIA: Shana Woodall, Cherokee; Ladina Balcom, Jeff Davis; Regina Blackshear, Jeff Davis; Cameria Joyce, Jeff Davis; Tamera Joyce, Jeff Davis; Sierra Moss
IDAHO: Sunnie Page, Cambridge; Afton Hollingsworth, Preston
ILLINOIS: Shelley Rigg, Bushnell-Prairie; Jason Smith, Louisa-Muscataine
MICHIGAN: Denim Allen, Branch; Lukas Lenhart, Hopkins; Lacey Malone, Lainsburg; Christopher Zubrick, Lainsburg; Kelley Rohlfing, Columbia; Nancy Yates, Columbia
MISSOURI: Christopher Dorrell, Macon; Dawn Shrum, Macon; Korissa Cox, North Harrison;

Ashley Jackson, Pleasant Hill; Leah Reid, Sweet Springs

MONTANA: Gy Salvevold, Culbertson

NEBRASKA: Cody Gulbrandson, Central City; Kelli Churchill, Valentine

NEW MEXICO: Summer Savage, Portales

NEW YORK: Levi Cahan, Schuylerville

NORTH CAROLINA: Amber Davis, Madison; Jennifer Glenn, Madison; Sheenah Lowe, Madison; Jackie Puryear, Madison;

Jerry Ramsey, Madison; Mattie Ramsey, Madison; Matthew

Roberts, Madison; Renee Shelton, Madison; Kevin Worley, Madison

NORTH DAKOTA: Paula Walker, Carrington; Jessica Kenner, Leeds

OHIO: John Watkins, Benjamin; Emily Bowman, Fairbanks; Megan Cantrell, Fairbanks; Amanda

Griener, Fairbanks; Katie Mabry, Fairbanks; Stacy Rausch, Fairbanks;

Sarah Sterling, Fairbanks

OKLAHOMA: Jodi Davis, Elk City; Danielle Jarvis, Guymon;

Elizabeth Kinney, Mooreland; Kristin Johnson, Mountain View-

Gotebo; Dawn Drummonds, Stigler; Nicole Nichols, Valliant

SOUTH DAKOTA: Danny Kaul, Bon Homme; Quin Peterson, Chamberlain

TEXAS: Eric Brunson, Chisum; Phillip Cato, Chisum; Jennifer

Durksen, Chisum; Jason Dyess, Chisum; Colton Wicks, Chisum

WYOMING: Gayla Graves, Cashmere; Jodi Burnett, Rainer

WISCONSIN: Sarah Pruessing, Big Foot; Brandon Bruder, Prairie

Farm; Anthony Wolf, Spencer; Travis Wolf, Spencer; Helen Hopke,

Spooner; Kristine Nowak, Spooner

Talented FFA members from around the United States took over the 72nd National Convention with their dynamic music and amazing skills during the talent show. Returning acts like Travis and Tony Wolf from Spencer, Wisconsin, awed spectators by dancing on stilts. Chris Zubrick from Laingsburg, Michigan, along with his esteemed colleague Lacey Malone, wowed audiences with a magic act. There also was a barefoot bluegrass band from Cordoya, Alaska. In all, there were many outstanding acts of talent.

This year, a total of 92 members performed in 45 different acts. The groups strutted their stuff 450 times by Saturday on the talent stage set up in Freedom Hall east wing—a new twist originating in Louisville. The group was directed by Gary Maricle, who completed his thirteenth year on National Talent duty.



Talented FFA members from around the country strutted their stuff at a talent show before Thursday night's session.

national FFA chorus

Not since the movie "Son in Law," has "Thank God I'm a Country Boy" been such a big hit—that is until it came from the lips of the men on the National FFA Chorus. The chorus also hit home with a stirring rendition of "America the Beautiful" and a riveting performance of the chorus' favorite song, "Ease on Down."

The chorus was composed of 101 of the most talented vocalists in the nation who dedicated many grueling hours of practice for the long-awaited convention sessions. Powerful performances and talented solo performers made the chorus a joy for listeners. It took almost three weeks to choose these students from nearly 500 applications. The phenomenal chorus was dynamic and full of life.

The group worked with new director, Patti LaJoye, and her assistant Steve Bowen, both from Michigan.



National FFA Chorus members lifted their voices and lifted convention goers' spirits at the same time. Brad Senffer, from the Central FFA Chapter in Clifton, Illinois, led the group in, "Thank God I'm a Country Boy."

Sponsored by Ford Division – Ford Motor Company

ALABAMA: John Barnwell, Billingsley

CALIFORNIA: Becky Roland, El Capitan

CONNECTICUT: Teri Underhill, Rockville

IDAHO: Jared Martin, Parma

ILLINOIS: Jonathon Hampton, Chicago Ag. Science; Jade Hornbaker, Northwestern;

Christina Merriman, Bluffs;

Timothy Reif, Carrollton; Brad Senffner, Central of Clifton;

Kylee Varnold, Spoom River

Valley; Sarah Zeien, Carthage

INDIANA: Justin Hill, Rossville

IOWA: Monica Ehrhardt,

Waukon; Andrew Gray, Decorah;

Karl Groszkruger, Hampton-

Tallcorn; Joshua Heard, Fremont-

Mills; Tammy Hoffman, Battle

Creek; Katie Larson, South

Hamilton; Lacey Schmitt,

Rockford; Tyler Smith,

Humboldt; Melynda Soma, South

Hamilton; Carl Stortz, Decorah

KANSAS: Adam Engelman,

Altoona-Midway; Jason Jones,

Atwood; Shawn Miller, Winfield;

Nathan Weiser, Altoona-Midway

MICHIGAN: Katie Balaam,

Lowell; Dustin Boehmer, Olivet;

Kimberly Meiste, Lowell

MINNESOTA: Brandyn

Klosterbuer, Luverne; Shannon

Nelsen, Minnewaska; Adam

Rothering, Fillmore Central;

Angela Sanborn, Alexandria;

Anna Vinkemeier, Watertown-

Mayer

MISSOURI: Mark Baker, Linn;

Megan Denison, Seneca; Jason

Denton, Crane High School;

Jessica McNabb, Centralia

MONTANA: Courtney Miner,

Peerless

NEBRASKA: Anita Bowder,

Pender; Jon Carpenter, Diller;

Nicholas Clausen, Logan View;

Nicholas Erdman, Bayard; Ryan

Griess, Sutton; Lisa Hofmann,

Sutton; William Munson,

Harrison; John Schmall, Bayard;

Bryce Wiebe, Centura; Jennifer

Parrish, Palmyra

NEW MEXICO: Lynae

Bendixsen, Carlsbad; Tanille

Berry, Carlsbad

NEW YORK: Brian Hamilton,

Cuba-Rushford; Matthew Hobart,

Greenville; Carrie Marlow,

Chateaugay

NORTH CAROLINA: Joshua

Davenport, Plymouth High;

Lindsay Rogers, Jamse Kenon

NORTH DAKOTA: Ashlie

Chase, Hebron; Kristi Uglem,

Northwood

OHIO: Kara Fent, Parkway;

Kylee Fent, Parkway; Mary

Harris, Oak Harbor; Megan

Scholl, Alexander

OKLAHOMA: JuliAnne

Barker, Waynoka; Lauren

Branscum, Moore; Aaron

Chaloner, Hinton; Christopher

Coons, Braman; Jason Frantz,

Balko; Colte Julian, Fletcher;

Rebecca Nida, Tonkawa; Kelly

Quattlebaum, Leedey; James

Roller, Clinton; John Shelley,

Fairview; Andrea Springer,

Guthrie; Devin Tebow, Deer

Creek-Lamont

OREGON: Analicia Santos,

Glide

PENNSYLVANIA: Melena

Whittington, State College

SOUTH DAKOTA: Colin

Greenfield, Beresford; Brooke

Lockner, Miller; Matthew Odden,

Miller; Kathryn Strom, Beresford

TEXAS: Wendy Ellsworth,

Cleveland Morris; Toni

Halliburton, Kirbyville;

Crescinda Hamilton, Cedar Park;

Grant Montgomery, Marcus;

Callie Pierce, Snyder; Tony

Ruiz, AGM Consolidated

WASHINGTON: Leah Hempill,

Burlington-Edison; Randi

Kifvett, Burlington-Edison;

Joseph Richardson, Yelm; Shawn

Siebold, Yelm

WISCONSIN: Christy

Leatherberry, LaFarge; Julie

Schwahn, Reedsville; Laura

Shippert, Rio; Ruth Talford,

Durand; Ryan Weiskircher,

Mineral Point; Patrick Whelan,

Gilman High School

WEST VIRGINIA: Lacey

Gorby, Tyler; Lee Ann Hall, Tyler

WYOMING: Seth Heinert,

Devils Tower

national FFA band

ARIZONA: Olivia Clause, Parker
ARKANSAS: Mathew Thornton,
Bismark; Kristina Nicole Lee,
Pocahontas

CALIFORNIA: Aaron Matthess,
DelNorte; Kevin Kandarian,
Fowler; Kevin Clark, Galt; Joseph
Losee, San Jacinto; Elisa Azevedo,
Livingston

COLORADO: Matthew Geu,
Peetz; Jessica Phelps, Peetz
ILLINOIS: Steven Ray, Tri-Point;
Amy Troyer, Normal; Amanda
Mennenga

INDIANA: Nick Stoltzfus,
Fairfield; Justin Dougherty,
Whiteland; Brian Bauman,
Rochester

IOWA: Carrie Stomley,
Rockwell-Sheffield; Kurt Beyer,
Pella; Angela Grey, Lakeside;
Karla McClintock, Decorah;
Jennifer Heeren, South Hamilton

KANSAS: Kristie Schneider,
Ell-Saline

KENTUCKY: Aaron McDonald,
Madison Central

MARYLAND: Sara Palm

MICHIGAN: Kendra Butters,
Homer; Cindy Groenink; Katie
Droscha, Charlotte; Ryan
Robinson, U.S.A.; Kimberly
Wilson, Bently; Shannon
O'Connor, Akron-Fairgrove; Kara
Butters, Homer; Kristine Martz,
Marshall; Thane Domrase, Alpena;
Kristin Young, Akron-Fairgrove

MINNESOTA: Kristen Betts,
New York Mills; Mark Drewlow,
Hawley; Tiffany Schmidt,
Watertown-Mayer; Elsa Arnold,
Spring Grove; Lisa McCarvel,
Round Lake; Elissa Ottermess,
Spring Grove; Justin Dessonsville,
Dawson-Boyd; Amy Hazel,
Lanesboro

MISSOURI: Janet Boyd,
Greebfield; Rex Smiley, Milan;
Heather Smith, El Dorado Springs;
Bryan Spaunhorst, Washington;
Tina Holtmeyer, Washington;
Michelle Genke, Boonville; Kelly
Howard, Wright City; Cheryl
Ragan, Warrensburg; Andrew
Thornton, Fayette; Jacob Crandall,
Milan

MONTANA: Austin Mapston;
Logan Braaten, Flathead; Kala
Keith; Derek Larson, Manhattan;
Dirdra Metcolfe, Hobson

NORTH DAKOTA: Jay Peterson,
Berthold; Zachary Hall, Berthold;
Shanna Gratton, Larimore; Brent
Rekkedal, J.E. East Gate; Brad
Lambrecht, Lisbon

NEBRASKA: Dawn Rosenthal,
Diller; Jeff Sheldon, Pawnee

City; Sara Messick, Central; Dustin
Kreifels, Syracuse-Dumbar;
Lindsay Strouf,

Wilbor-Clatonia; Bryan Colson,
Hemmingford; John Stegmaier,
Imperial; Kristy Russell, Holdrege

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Harry
Sanborn III, Croydon, Mt.

NEW MEXICO: Elicia Currier,
Kirtland

OHIO: Rachel Garrett, Westfall;
Amanda Stearns, Lakota; Abby
Gerken, Holgate; Daniel Kramer,
Eaton

OKLAHOMA: Harlan Yocham,
Sapulpa; Brent Moore, Skiatook;
Casey Miers, Chelsea; Brian
Leisher, Okeene; Dyshia Morris,
Wakita; Edward Sifford Jr.,

Hooker; Adam Pierce, Sapulpa;
Jalaina Johnson, Tishomingo

OREGON: Ames Kier, Joseph
PENNSYLVANIA: Krista Lynn
Olewiler, Easter

SOUTH CAROLINA: Michael
Byrd, Lamar; Lyndsey Hall,
Abbeville

SOUTH DAKOTA: Karen Kezar,
Alcester-Hudson

TEXAS: Alexis Balko, Calallen;
Mathew Stout, McAllen; Wendy
Hudson, Channelview; Roel
Guerra, Rio Grande City; Jennifer
Novak, Seymasour; Melissa Davis,
Burleson; Roger Carey, Cross
Plains; David Foster, Sulphur
Springs; Stacy Stockard, Sanger;
Elizabeth Beal, Jacksonville

VIRGINIA: Scott Lawrence,
Lord Botetourt

WASHINGTON: Nicholas Siler,
St. John-Endicott; Chris McLean,
St. John-Endicott; Troy Federer,
Odessa; Stephanie Bishop, Yelm;
Tasha Scherbenske, Auburn
Riverside; Layna St. Germain,
Wenatchee

WISCONSIN: Dustin Williams,
Hillsboro; Hope Parsons, Antigo;
Justin Jorgenson, Black Hawk;
Jeremy Patrick-Crane, Waupaca;
Jonathon Wantoch, Mondovi; Tina
Hermann, Pardeeville; Melissa
Svendsen, Monticello; Thomas
Fredrickson, Lake Geneva; Nicole
Lankey, Wonewoc-Center; Tonya
Pautzke, Pardeeville; Raymond
Valentine, Pecatonica; Emily
Reimer, Waupaca; Brandi
Abegglen, Colby; Dana Weigel,
Darlington; Kristopher Klassy,
New Glarus; Lisa Melby, Waupaca;

Brittney Kempfer, New Glarus

WYOMING: Trevor Bekken,
Lander; Danielle Schaff, Wright



Trumpeter Joseph Losee, California, displays musical talent that would rival the "call to post" bugle at Churchill Downs.

Sponsored by Ford Division – Ford Motor Company and
the National FFA Foundation General Fund

FFA members were energized before each session
by the thundering sounds of the National FFA Band.
Whether they were doing the famous "chicken
dance," or grooving to the tune of the Blues
Brothers, members actively prepared themselves
for the day's events.

The National FFA Band consisted of 105 students
from across the nation. Each band member sent
in an audition tape to win a coveted seat on the
national stage. These dedicated individuals traveled
to Louisville five days before the start of the
convention to assemble as a group for the first time.
They practiced for countless hours to bring
convention participants various musical renditions.

Hard work and dedication paid off as the National Proficiency Award winners were recognized on stage. These award winners excelled and conquered in their area of expertise in the supervised agricultural experience program (SAE) to become the best of FFA. Many different proficiency programs exist and 176 members proved themselves worthy of national awards. Areas range from traditional production agriculture, to the newer food science and technology, environmental science and emerging agricultural technology areas. These 44 proficiency awards recognize achievements in an ever-changing industry.

Judges interviewed finalists and inspected their record books. Then, each winner was presented with a plaque and a cash award on stage and earned the chance to participate in an international agricultural travel experience.



Even Outdoor Recreation has its own proficiency award; Jaclyn Dawn Myers was the recipient of this national award.

AGRICULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS

Sponsored by R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company; and Farm Progress Companies, Inc.

Illinois: Bona Jeffers
Bradbury, Harvard
Indiana: Jordan Zook,
Carroll
Minnesota: Tammy Lynn
Gilland, Cedar Mountain
South Dakota: Tiffany
Anderson, Agricultural
Lemmon

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICAL TECHNICAL SYSTEMS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by CARQUEST Corporation and Daimler Chrysler Corporation-Dodge Trucks

California: Tim Deniz,
Chowchilla
Georgia: Clay Johnson,
Emanuel County Institute
Illinois: John Finnigan,
Normal
Michigan: Ryan Sweeney,
Mason

AGRICULTURAL MECHANICAL TECHNICAL SYSTEMS, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Case Corporation

Indiana: Jared Lee
Nussbaum, Adams Central
Ohio: Jason Rafferty Dallas,
Laurel Oaks
Pennsylvania: Jared W.
Weaver, Grassland
Wisconsin: Jason Oetzman,
Hillsboro

AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING

Sponsored by Ag Processing, Inc./Consolidated Nutrition L.C.; Archer Daniels Midland Company; and National FFA Foundation General Fund

Connecticut: Ben Berecz,
Woodbury
Indiana: Joseph H. Miller,
Rochester
Pennsylvania: Carleen
Michelle Vorisek, Linesville
Tennessee: Ralph G. Ramey,
Midway

AGRICULTURAL SALES AND/OR SERVICE

Sponsored by Case Corporation; Chevrolet Motor Division; The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company; and Vigortone Ag Products

California: Joe Martin Jr.,
Lodi
Georgia: Terry Michael
McNair, Hawkinsville
Idaho: Zackary Gillette,
Burley
Missouri: Randy J. Meissen,
Salisbury

BEEF PRODUCTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Nasco Division/Nasco International, Inc.; and Schering-Plough Animal Health

California: Katherine
Biggers, Chowchilla
Colorado: Kasey Jo Walker,
New Raymer
Idaho: Kyla Prunty, Rimrock
Kansas: Brandon New,
Tonganoxie

BEEF PRODUCTION PLACEMENT

Cactus Feeders, Inc.; Fort Dodge Animal Health; Evergreen Mills, Inc.; and Kent Feeds, Inc.

California: Anthony Ledahl,
Elk Grove
Florida: James C. LeFils Jr.,
Pine Ridge
Indiana: Chad Shaffer,
Carroll
Wyoming: Ty Muir, Manila

CEREAL GRAIN PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Cenex Harvest States Foundation

California: Greg Van Dyke,
East Nicolaus
Colorado: John Michal,
Flagler
Indiana: Chad Alan
Nussbaum, Adams Central
Ohio: Andrew M. Stitzlein,
Loudonville

DAIRY PRODUCTION ENTREPRENEUR

Sponsored by Alfa Laval Agri, Inc.; Manno Pro Corporation, "The Cal-Manna" Company; and National FFA Foundation General Fund

California: Natalie Porscha
Borba, Escalon
Iowa: Jordan D. Walther,
G & G
Ohio: Daren M. Sheffield,
Wellington
Wisconsin: Jackie A.
Thompson, Darlington

DAIRY PRODUCTION PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Monsanto Company

California: Carl Brasil,
Tulare Western
Iowa: Nora Richter,
Maquoketa Valley
Minnesota: Shaine Miletto,
Battle Lake
Missouri: David Heusing,
Pleasant Hope

proficiency awards

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Cargill

California: Frances

Echeverria, Central

Illinois: Dan Kilmer, Seneca

Indiana: Jason Masters,

Shenandoah

Wisconsin: Joseph T. Lulich,

Ashland

DIVERSIFIED CROP PRODUCTION PLACEMENT

Sponsored by National Crop Insurance Services; AgrEvo; and Rain & Hail Insurance Service, Inc.

Kansas: Justin Michael

Newland, Neodesha

Ohio: Matthew John Brooks,

Monroeville

Oklahoma: Adam Tibbetts,

Chickasha

Wisconsin: Zeb Zuehls,

Montello

DIVERSIFIED LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by National Crop Insurance Services; AgrEvo; and Rain & Hail Insurance Service, Inc.

California: Jason Robert

Diedrich, Firebaugh

Illinois: Jennifer Herman,

Taylorville

South Dakota: Jeff Daniel

DeRouchey, Chamberlain

Wisconsin: Steven Michael

Offer, Marshfield

DIVERSIFIED LIVE-STOCK PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by ContiGroup Companies, Inc.; Allflex USA, Inc.; and United Soybean Board

California: Eric Joughin

Hafenfeld, Kern Valley

Indiana: Scott C. Spooner,

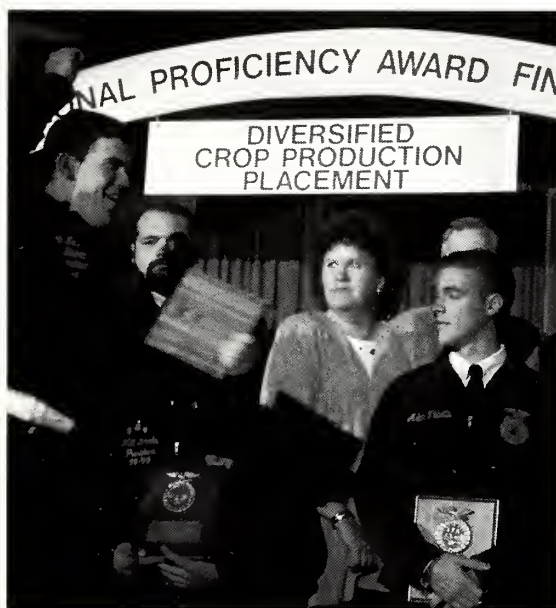
Carroll

Missouri: Donald Lewis

Laut III, Fredericktown

Utah: John Matthew

Wintch, Dixie



Diversified crop production is one of the many supervised agricultural experience programs available. Students were selected to advance from the state level and top projects were judged at the national level.

EMERGING AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by Caterpillar Agricultural Products, Inc.

California: Chris Black,

North High - Bakersfield

Florida: William Donald

Dukes, Lake Butler

Kansas: Ross Janssen,

Ellsworth

Ohio: Kyle Wilson, Laurel

Oaks

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Sponsored by IMC Global, Inc.; and Carolina Biological Supply Co.

Indiana: Austin Taylor,

Carroll

Kansas: Jarret D. Gowdy,

Arkansas City

Minnesota: Courtney Lynne

Turnage, Murray County

Central

Oregon: Jennifer Louise

Brickey, Hillsboro

EQUINE SCIENCE, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.; American Paint Horse Association; and Red Brand Non-Climb Horser Fence/Made by Keystone Steel & Wire Company

California: Shayna Muniz,

Templeton

North Dakota: Matthew

Anderson, Carrington

Ohio: A.J. Price, Benjamin

Logan

Wisconsin: Dwayne P.

Beaumier, Oconto Falls

EQUINE SCIENCE, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Resistol Hats

California: Tina Lynn

Saitone, Petaluma

Indiana: Jeffery Scott Dever,

Oak Hill

Utah: Shawn W. Silcox,

Payson

Washington: Rachel

Willemssen, Yelm

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Colorado: Bryan Geisick, Wiggins
Illinois: Brandon VanBlaricum, West Richland
Missouri: Aaron Dale Minnick, Chillicothe
Nebraska: Ryan Anthony Johnson, Imperial

FEED GRAIN PRODUCTION PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Indiana: David Richard Skiles, Carroll
Kentucky: Tyson Colin Sanderfur, Ohio County
Missouri: Patrick L. Weisz, Norborne
Wisconsin: Joe Steuck, Montello

FIBER CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Griffin L.L.C.; Cotton Grower; and Witco Corporation

California: Dominic Pitigliano, Tulare Union
New Mexico: Kami Joy, Artesia
North Carolina: Samuel David Walton, St Pauls
Oklahoma: Zac Harris, Hobart

FLORICULTURE

Sponsored by American Floral Endowment; The Kroger Company; Valent U.S.A. Corp.; and Greenhouse Grower

Florida: Chad Allen Branford, North Marion
Oklahoma: Amanda Lynn Bingham, Tecumseh
Washington: Rebekah Riches, Yelm
Wisconsin: Renee Michelle Cerny, Big Foot-Walworth

FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Sponsored by H.J. Heinz Company; Meyocks & Priebe Advertising, Inc.; and Seneca Foods Corporation

Arkansas: Jeremy West, Springdale
Maine: Julie Megan Gunderman, Presque Isle
Oregon: Shelli Bunn, Dayton
Wisconsin: Kelvin Heiman, Marshfield



Kimberly Michelle Newson was ecstatic when she was announced winner of the sheep production proficiency award.

FORAGE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Gehl Company; and Novartis Seeds, Inc.

California: Bean Christopher Correia, Dos Palos
Illinois: Ryan Meyer, Liberty
Indiana: Jacob Winford Arthur, Southmont
Ohio: John Huss, Woodmore

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by DaimlerChrysler Corporation Fund-Dodge Trucks; John Deere Consumer Products and subsidiary Homelite and Smurfit-Stone Container Corp.

Alabama: Joey Knight, Randolph-Roanoke
California: Travis Thane, Nevada Union
Georgia: Thomas Blake Clark, Wheeler County
Indiana: Matt Oberlies, Scottsburg

FRUIT AND/OR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.

Idaho: Ryn Beck, Burley
California: Timothy Lewis, Elk Grove
Indiana: Francisco Reyes, North Newton
Utah: Melanie McMullin, Payson

HOME AND/OR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Sponsored by Carhartt, Inc.

Colorado: Carlos Allen Abeyta, Delta
Missouri: Richard C. Craig, Norborne
New Mexico: Fabian Beltran, Artesia
West Virginia: Emily Okes, Shady Spring

HORTICULTURE

Sponsored by Bayer Corporation, Agricultural Division

California: J. Robert Serna, Turlock
Ohio: Julie Dabrunz, Fremont
Tennessee: Benjamin Moore, Warren County
Wisconsin: Brooke Ellen Voelker, Weyanwwega-Fremont

LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by Reiman Publications

Nebraska: Tracy McCormick, Tekamah-Herman
North Carolina: Jonathan Motes, West Carteret
South Dakota: Chad Odens, Harrisburg
Virginia: Brian Estes, Calhoun, Park View Sr.

NURSERY OPERATIONS

Sponsored by Daimler-Chrysler Corporation Fund-Dodge Trucks; Farmland Mutual Insurance Company/Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Company and Quality Stores, Inc. Group

Florida: Kiley Sieffert, Colonial
Louisiana: Mayonce E. Franks, North Central
Ohio: Raymond 'Andy' Ricketts, Ridgedale
Tennessee: Adam Franklin Newby, Warren County

OIL CROP PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Novartis Seeds, Inc.; and United Soybean Board

Kansas: *Steve Friess, Labette County*

New Mexico: Marshall Alan Baker, Texico

North Carolina: J.R. Austin, Piedmont

Ohio: Rob Bambauer, New Bremen

OIL CROP PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by BASF; AgroEvo; Asgrow Seed Company

Iowa: Ryan Beeson, Red Oak

Missouri: Ryan T. Craig, Norborne

Ohio: *Curt Goubeaux, Versailles*

Wisconsin: Ryan Sperger, Waupun

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Sponsored by Chevrolet Motor Division; O.F. Mossberg and Sons, Inc.; and Schrade Cutlery

California: *Jaclyn Dawn Myers, Sierra*

Louisiana: Rocky Smith, Vinton

Minnesota: Matthew E. Knott, Tracy

Wyoming: Quint Gonzales, Buffalo

POULTRY PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Chore-Time Equipment Division of CTB, Inc.; Schering-Plough Animal Health; and United Soybean Board

Georgia: *Jonathan Mark Gibson, Gilmer County*

Indiana: Kelly Myers, Wawasee

Minnesota: Nathan Ylitalo, Menahga

Missouri: Tyler Cribbs, Pleasant Hope

SHEEP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by LA-CO "All Weather" Paintstik Markers; Wrangler Division of V.F. Corporation; and National FFA Foundation General Fund

California: Paige Gill, Dixon

North Carolina: Brent Justin Jennings, Camden

Oklahoma: Dustin Moore, Taloga

Tennessee: *Kimberly Michelle Newsom, Dyersburg*

SMALL ANIMAL CARE

Sponsored by Novartis Animal Health U.S., Inc.

Indiana: Nora Lynn Berndt, Woodlan

Ohio: *Jamie Evans, Live Oaks*

Oaks: Carla Dian Channell, Gaither

Tennessee: Tiffany German, McMinn County

SOIL AND WATER MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Global Agricultural Products

Indiana: Craig A. Holman, Hamilton

Kentucky: Raglena E. Turpin, Madison Central

North Dakota: Shannon L. Reardon, Medina

Virginia: *Melissa Anne Kenney, Turner Ashby*

SPECIALTY ANIMAL PRODUCTION,

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.; and Quality Stores, Inc. Group

Florida: *Frank Ray Allen II, Suwannee*

Idaho: Derek Fisher, Meridian

North Dakota: Dusty Kost, Fessenden

Tennessee: Jeremy Montgomery, Riverside

SPECIALTY CROP PRODUCTION

Sponsored by Elf Atochem North America, Inc.; Kubota Tractor Corporation, Na-Churs/Alpine Solutions; and Wilbur-Ellis Company

California: *Christopher Jared Chaney, Kernan*

Indiana: Andrew D. Haskell, Switzerland County

Wisconsin: Tracy Lee Smithback, Cambridge

Wyoming: Michelle Vigil, Riverside

SWINE PRODUCTION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health; and Purina Mills, Inc.

California: Rachelle Ann Bailey, Turlock

Illinois: Krista Builta, Blue Ridge

Missouri: *Jesse*

Albert Heimer, Palmyra

Wisconsin: Jesse Thomas Bollinger, Cochrane-Fountain City

SWINE PRODUCTION, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Akey, Inc.; and Pfizer Animal Health

Iowa: *Jeffrey R. Moellers, Starmont*

Ohio: Kristina Diamond, Marysville

Oklahoma: Tonya Nicole West, Weatherford

Wisconsin: Jeffrey J. Cross, Randolph

TURF GRASS MANAGEMENT

Sponsored by The Scotts Company

Indiana: Andrea Faye Bennett, Southmont

Ohio: *Fran Meister, West Liberty-Salem*

Nebraska: Marty Bland, Norfolk

Oregon: Jackie Herinckx, Hillsboro

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Sponsored by Bass Pro Shops, Inc.; and Buck Knives

Ohio: Kevin Dale

Shoemaker, Madison-Plains

Minnesota: Scott M. Fank, Bold

South Dakota: Nicholas

Nielson, Lennox Sundstrom

Wisconsin: *Nicholas Jerry Beil, Marshfield*

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT, PLACEMENT

Sponsored by Cabela's Ducks Unlimited; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; National Rifle Association of America

Idaho: Kyle Brown, Cambridge

Indiana: *Mark A. Sollman, Gibson Southern*

Ohio: Jon Norris, Miami Valley Career Technology Center

Oklahoma: Justin Steckman, Carnegie



James C. LeFils, Jr. was jubilant as his name was called as national winner of the beef proficiency award.

ALABAMA: Daryl Lee Behel, Rogers; Chris Carroll, Slocumb; Jonathan Eubanks, Slocumb; John A Grace, South Lamar; John T Hubbard, Bibb County; Brad Lamon, East Lawrence; Brian Randall Lamon, East Lawrence; Carrie Lee Myers, Collinsville; Jered Oden, Russellville; Christine Anne Simmer, Montevallo; James Bradford Smith, Montevallo; John David Strickland, Slocumb;

ARIZONA: Lacey Balmer, Payson; Shanna Nicole Bowman, Kofa; Jennifer Ann Boyle, Gilbert; Amanda Cansler, Yuma; Ryan Churchey, Red Mountain; Amy Cowell, Red Mountain; Lynn M Davies, Safford; Jason Michael DeSpain, Safford; Chad DiPeso, Benson; Brian Christopher Fuller, Chino Valley; R Matthew Gless,



american FFA degree

Red Mountain; Angela Kay Jaynes, Yuma; Julia Johnson, Payson; Joe Jones, Antelope; Laura Miller, Red Mountain; Blaine Morris, Yuma; Jason Paul, Payson; Jamie Rovey, Buckeye; Shauna D Smith, Peoria; Eric Stevens, Payson; Jesus Francisco Valdez, Elfrida; Jessica Lynn Van Matre, Yuma; Robbie Walker, Elfrida; Aimee Weber, Yuma; Katie Weir, Red Mountain; Patrick F Wellert II, Peoria; Stephanie Wellert, Peoria; Hayley Renee White, Kofa; Eric Wofford, Yuma; Tanner Lee Young, Gilbert; **ARKANSAS:** Josh Baker, Mountain Home; Morgan E Davis, Nettleton; Samantha Easley, Emerson; Elizabeth Paige Garvin, Valley Springs; Amanda M Norman, Paragould; Sarah E Norman, Paragould; Scotch Powell, Mountain Home; Eric Rowbotham, Mountain Home; Aaron Treat, Decatur;

CALIFORNIA: Shanna Abatti, El Centro-Southwest; Tony A Abatti, El Centro-Southwest; Allison Marie Adams, Tehachapi; Amanda Aguiar, Livingston; Katy Allen, Atascadero; Russell Steven Allison, Mariposa; Neil Amarante, Gustine; Patrick Andersen, Los Molinos; Manuel Andrade Jr, Corcoran; Joshua R Anson, Sunny Hills; Matt Archer, Kerman; Ryan Armstrong, Orange Glen; Stephen Ashburn, Fresno Central; Kimberly Aspiras, Chico; Christina Avila, Atwater; Cory Avila, Gustine; Eric Axberg, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Holly Baker, Atwater; Laura Baker, Sanger; Margo Baldviev, Santa Maria; Brian Baptista, Atwater; Bridget M Barcellos, Monache; Thaddeus Barsotti, Esparto; Mandy Barton, Chowchilla; Debi Batini, Arcata;

Sponsored by American Cyanamid Company, Global Agricultural Products; Case Corporation; Farm Credit Services; and, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Honorary American FFA Degree recipients exemplify the true meaning of the FFA and its mission with their own premier leadership, personal growth and career success tactics. Recipients of this distinguished degree remind members how influential leaders are and the importance of supporting a worthy cause.

Recipients of this degree range from agricultural teachers who devote countless hours helping students to school and government officials who offer their expertise for the good of the organization and the people involved.

The National FFA Organization Honorary American FFA Degree is presented to such individuals to thank them for their continued support of the FFA and agricultural education. During the Friday morning session these honored individuals received their plaques and esteemed appreciation from the national officers.

Courtney Baylis, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Julie Beaver, Morro Bay; James Daniel Beck, Bret Harte; Paul David Bedrosian, Fowler; Matt Beechinor, Madera; Stephanie Benedict, Yosemite; Irene Bernal, Livingston; Larry Bettencourt, Gonzales; Manuel Bettencourt, Hanford; Jeremy Biery, Escondido; Kylie Billingsley, Lemoore Union; Chris Black, North High-Bakersfield; Jessalee Blackwell, Lodi; Kelly Block, Shandon; Andrew Bloom, Turlock; Scott Boardman, North High-Bakersfield; Juliann Bothwell, Kern Valley; Amber N Braz, Anderson; Adam Braziel, Elk Grove; Brett Broesel, La Sicra; Jeff Brown, Clovis; Hcidi Buckman, McArthur-Fall River; Will Bunt, Red Bluff; Bridget Annette Burns, Half

Moon Bay; Sarah Burrow, Lemoore; Matthew Byrne, Tullake; Cori Calvert, Fresno-Central; Liz Camara, Gustine; Miranda Cardiff, Dixon; David Carr, Chowchilla; Melissa Christine Carter, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Adam Casso, Atwater; Chris Centeno, Arroyo Grande; Nathan Center, Fresno Central; Maria Chavez, Butte Valley; Greg Chiossi, Healdsburg; David John Coffman, Gilroy; Mindy Marie Coleman, Pioneer; Julieann Collins, Fresno Central; Sharee' Michelle Copeland, Chino-Don Lugo; Kathryn A Cornelius, La Habra-Sonora; Jennifer Correia, Tulare Union; Steven Costa, Tulare Union; Robin Cozzitorto, Hilmar; Thomas Creighton, Lake Isabella-Kern Valley; Stacy Ann Crow,

Newman-Orestimba; Victor Torres Cruz, Santa Maria; Manuel Cunha, Lemoore; Andy Curlee, Lodi; Alex DeBenedetto, Clovis; Zach DeBernardi, Santa Maria-Righetti; Renee Dell, Sanger; Tim Deniz, Chowchilla; Stacey Leah DePaul, Surprise Valley; David DeRose, Tulare Western; Gabe DeTar, Dixon; Luke DeTar, Dixon; Jane Diedrich, Firebaugh; Andrea Dilley, Fresno Central; Jacob Cody Domenghini, Morro Bay; D J Dunn, Santa Ynez; Lesa Eidman, Grass Valley-Nevada Union; Keith Elliott, McFarland; April England, Lake Isabella-Kern Valley; Traci Erickson, Fallbrook; Michael Fagundes, Kingsburg; James Faircloth, Escondido; Rebecca Marie Ferrari, Santa Maria; Michael Ferreira, Dixon; Sara Hilary Fike, Yosemite; Steven Flores, Santa

Fresno-Pershing; Lorna Kreutz, Fallbrook; Jenni Kuhns, Hollister-San Benito; Brian Lambert, Lake Isabella-Kern Valley; Laura Elizabeth Lander, Coalinga; Amanda Lane, Lemoore; Sarah Elisha Lenard, Fullerton; Jesus Leon, Gonzales; Ricky Levy, Lemoore; Matthew Lewallen, Merced Golden Valley; Jolleen Lindo, Gustine; Robert Lindsey, Norco; Dallas W Lobmeyer, Coalinga; Sarah Ida Lopes, Newman-Orestimba; Anna Michele Lounibos, Vista; Dean Loux, Santa Maria; Christopher R Luis, Fresno-Central; Sara Luscombe, Tulelake; Frank Machado, Atwater; Michelle M Maciel, Riverdale; Randee Lee Maier, Tollhouse-Sierra; Pauline Mandell, Littlerock; Amanda Martin, Tulare Western; Amy Jo Martin,

Chad Murdoch, Chowchilla; Francisco Muro, Bakersfield-Ridgeview; Matthew Murray, Carpinteria; Patrick Murray, Dixon; Molly Myers, Tollhouse-Sierra; Ron Nack, Escondido; Bobbie Nelson, Atwater; Jeff Noble, Porterville-Monache; Terry Norris, Bloomington; Justin Noutary, Dixon; Shayleen Marie O'Connell, Colusa; David M Ogilvie, Clarksburg Delta; Philip Ogilvie, Clarksburg-Delta; Carlos Oliva, Gonzales; Sara Ortiz, Tulare Western; Sasha Orton, Santa Ynez; Brady Otto, Galt; Jerry Ourique, Laton; John Paasch, Grass Valley-Bear River; Tamara Lynn Pacho, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Philip L Pacia, Sonora-La Habra; Paula Pafford, Firebaugh; Maria Paredes, Fresno Central; Kevin Parsons, Lake Isabella-Kern Valley;

Ynez; Mandy Foreman, Brentwood-Liberty; Mark Alan Foust, Lancaster-Antelope Valley; Tricia Fowler, Atwater; Paris Freitas, Lemoore; Joshua Freng, Tehachapi; Robin Frost, Fairfield-Armijo; Jennifer Galaway, Atwater; Jose Garcia, Newman-Orestimba; Bailey Gardner, Campbell; Jennifer Lynn Gates, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Frank Gaytan, Selma; Paige Gill, Dixon; Andy Godfrey, Riverside-La Sierra; Melissa Alison Gomes, Merced-Golden Valley; Amanda Kate Gonzales, San Marcos; Brian Goodwater, Dixon; Sherie Goulart, Fresno-Central; Jill Greathouse, Sutter Union; Christine M Green, Lancaster-Antelope Valley; Hector Guerra, Santa Maria-Righetti; Jennifer Guthrie-Casey, Yosemite; Tony Gutierrez, Dorris-Butte Valley; Summer Hackett, Tollhouse-Sierra; Donald J Hadden III, Littlerock; Bryon Hadwick, Dorris-Butte Valley; Eric Hafenfeld, Lake Isabella-Kern Valley; Megan Harrison, La Habra-Sonora; Heather Lynn Havens, Holtville; Kelly Heather, Yosemite; Alvino B Hermosillo, San Marcos; Nick Heryford, Clovis; Joel Hickman, Dixon; Nicole Howell, Salinas; Jeremy Micheal M Hunter, Fowler; April Jackson, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Justin Jackson, Woodland; Lisa Johns, Tulare Union; Courtney Johnson, Chowchilla; Patricia Johnson, Atwater; Audrey Johnston, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Jenifer Jones, Coalinga; Kevin Jones, Lemoore; Maureen Anita Jones, El Capitan; Theresa Jones, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Joey Jorge, Santa Maria-Ernest Righetti; Frank Junio, Tulare Union; Jami Kaptein, Fallbrook; Conor Keegan, Santa Ynez; Rhett Kennedy, Atwater; Zeb King, Atascadero; Nathan Koop,



Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Grant Edward Martin, El Capitan; Aaron Matheron, Hilmar; Melanie Mathis, Hanford; Jeni McCleskey, Atwater; Richard McGrath, Riverside-Rubidoux; James McKasson, Dorris-Butte Valley; Kristina McKay, Lemoore; Jeff McLaughlin, Tehachapi; Lisa Leona McPeters, Madera; Chet Mebane, North High-Bakersfield; Sean L Mees, San Luis Obispo; George Meyer, Lemoore; Katie Meyer, Fortuna; Matthew Migliazzo, Atwater; Rebecca Suzanne Mintz, Nicolaus-East Nicolaus; Mario Mitchell, Morro Bay; John David Moiola, Brawley; Mark Monroe, Fresno-Pershing; Justin Moore, Elk Grove; Juan Moreno, Lemoore; Jasen Morris, Dixon; Tony Mullen, Riverside-La Sierra; Elizabeth Mullion, Blythe;

Shane Peck, Atwater; Arthur Pedreiro, Chowchilla; Lisa Petersen, Santa Ynez; Shelley Pettitt, Chowchilla; Amy Pietrowski, Dixon; Michelle Pigeon, Dixon; Jessica Pires, Tulare Union; Nicholas W Podsakoff, Kerman; Anselmo Ramirez, Santa Ynez; Teresa Ramos, Woodland; Misty Rayn, Dixon; Matt Redding, Madera; Jimmy Reed, East Nicolaus; Chad Reis, Dixon; Sarah Renner, Fortuna; Kevin Riley, McFarland; Briahna C Ritchea, Yucaipa; Rebecca Lynn Ritchea, Quartz Hill; Jennifer Roberts, Tulare Western; Camille Marie Robertson, Santa Maria-Ernest Righetti; Korie Robinson, Dixon; Chad Rocha, Gustine; Heather Rocha, Hanford; Wesley Rodrigues, Lemoore; Steven Michael Rodriguez, Madera; Allison Roeben, Lemoore; Casey Eugene

Roland, Salinas-North Salinas; Tina Lynn Saitone, Petaluma; Jennifer Michelle Sanford, Lompoc; Melissa Saterfield, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Amanda Marie Sayers, Kelseyville; Mathew Daniel Schager, Hamilton City; Steven William Schorr, Gridley; Shannon Lynn Schreyer, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; Stephanie Sears, Arroyo Grande; Zachary Shuler, Lucerne Valley; Trinity Silva, Lemoore; Patrick Simas, Lemoore; Jeffrey David Simonian, Fowler; Erin Kathryn Sissom, Chowchilla; Cody Skinner, Gonzales; Gayle Smith, Half Moon Bay; Katrina Smith, Norco; Anthony Souza, Tulare Union; Kacey Souza, Newman-Orestimba; Chrissy Spencer, Galt; Angela Brianna St Clair, Porterville; Dustin Stellway, Escondido-Orange Glen; Dani Stock, San Luis Obispo; Scott Stoller, Altaville-Bret Harte; Tyler Storey, Santa Ynez; Stacy Ann Stubna, Mira Loma-Jurupa Valley; William Sullivan, Paso Robles; Kevin Patrick Sweeney, Kingsburg; Travis Thane, Grass Valley-Nevada

Bolinger, Delta; Neil James Brennan, Meeker; Chris C Burns, Holly; Travis James Carman, Akron; Christopher Michael Carpio, Platte Valley; Heather Cunningham, Hotchkiss; Ryan Davis, Las Animas; Michael Forster, Platte Valley; Bobbi Geisert, Valley; Brad Allan Harr, Alamosa; Scott B Harr, Alamosa; Duane D Hawkins, Peetz; Ryan C Herboldsheimer, Peetz; Ryan D Johnson, Platte Valley; Julie Lorraine Kreps, Eaton; Jennie Loutzenhiser, Flagler; Scott Bradley Oswald, Kit Carson; Seth Paige, Burlington; Randy Lynn Palmer, Eaton; Rex Peebles, Hotchkiss; Timothy D Provost, Pueblo County; David Ruyle, Wiggins; Richard Schmunk, Eaton; Joshua Ray Schnabel, Kit Carson; Gabe Schreiber, Woodlin; Robin Schreiber, Woodlin; Susan Schreiber, Flagler; J D Sheldon, Burlington; Jon Smithburg, Flagler; Nikki Smotherman, Lamar; Jake Turner, Las Animas; Kasey Jo Walker, New Raymer; Cody Weber, Montrose; Tara Naomi Weber, Kit Carson;

Mary Catherine Thomas, Durant Senior; Allison J Wacaser, Durant Senior; Amy S Wacaser, Durant Senior; Daniel Slade Williams, Williston High Senior; Josh B Wilson, Okeechobee Brahman; **GEORGIA:** Hilary Barrett, Franklin County; Keith Bassett, Putnam County; Reginald Doyle Beasley, Wayne County; Amy Day, Coffee County; Kristy Lynn Griffiths, Wayne County; Trey Hart, Colquitt County; Timothy Kirk Jackson, Jefferson; Krista Jowers, Coffee County; Eric Kight, Treutlen; Richard Oliver McGinnis, Madison County; Philip Edward McKie, Wilcox County; Benjamin Clay Melancon, Oconee County; Tony A Morgan, Effingham County; Lana C Moye, Mitchell-Baker; James Allen Nobles, Treutlen; Bradley Thomas Rahn, Effingham County; Terry Roberts, Colquitt County; Rodney Rogers, Treutlen; Ray Salter, Colquitt County; Jarrell Sapp, Colquitt County; Laura Michelle Smith, Bainbridge; Carol Lea Spruill,

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Fronning, Fergus Falls; Robert Fronning, Fergus Falls; Jeff Gartner, Maple River; James M Gerdes, Mountain Lake; Holly Marie Geyer, Benson; Dan Glessing, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted; Nancy Guse, Maple River; Melissa Harms, MacCray-KMS; Nicholas Ronald Hartwig, Waconia; Barbara Heinze, Belgrade-Brooten-Elrosa; Shelly E Hesse, Chaska; Matthew David Hill, Blue Earth; Tiffany D Hill, Willmar; Tyson Kenneth Hill, Willmar; Tony Hoen, Waconia; Wendy Anne Jasper, LeRoy-Ostrander; Brian Joyer, Forest Lake; Mandy Marie Kidrowski, Willmar; Dawn Marie Klucas, Benson; Nathan Kuball, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown; Shannon Kuball, Waterville-Elysian-Morristown; Joni Kunz, Maple River; Kara E Ladlie, Albert Lea;

County; **MISSOURI:** Melanie D Acklin, Nodaway-Holt; Joshua E Alig, Pleasant Hill R-III; Adam Arnold, El Dorado Springs; Michael Ash, California; Josh Atkinson, Archie; Troy Joseph Bader, Campbell; Katherine Baker, West Plains; L Todd Banner, Eldon; Valerie Kae Barker, Liberal; Greg Baumann, Savannah; Keith Baxter, Logan-Rogersville; Clint Behm, Sweet Springs; Adam Bieri, California; Lancer T Blair, Salem; Raymond H Blevins, Lakeland; Daniel L Bockhold, Dexter; Meredith Ann Booth, Columbia; Melissa L Boston, Slater; Amanda Bowles, Miller; Daniel Bowles, North Central Area Vo-Tech; Eric Brandt, Linn; J Dustin Braschler, Doniphan; Heath Brooks, Holden; Chad Michael Brotherton,

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Claire Wentz, Corunna; Rachel A Weyer, Lapeer Vo-Tech; Robb A Weyer, Lapeer Vo-Tech; John Whitmore, Ithaca; Aaron M Williams, Homer; Jessica Mae Williams, St Louis; **MINNESOTA:** Angela Bakeberg, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted; Brad Baumgardt, Sleepy Eye; Teresa Berg, Norman County West; Bernhard M Birr, Maple River; Brent Lynn Braaten, Valentine; Daniel Caughey, Brainerd; Connie Lynn Cihlar, Minnewaska; Natasha Cronen, Benson; Jeremy Daberkow, Southwest Star Concept; Laurie A Delaney, Perham; Chad Domino, Elk River; Darren Wayne Fank, Bold; Scott M Fank, Bold; Jessica Fettig, Minnewaska; Lisa Fischer, Maple River; Becca R Friesen, USC; Brad Fronning, Fergus Falls; Mathew

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Columbus; Will Kiker, Anson; Travis Klaus, Pleasanton; Joshua W Klein, Comfort; Wade Koehl, Round Top-Carmine; Hollie Lynn Langley, Winona; Nicholas Laskowski, Poth; Charles R Lewis, Mabank; Kristi Mahaffey, Pasadena; Daniel Mata, Wortham; Brent Matthys, Hubbard; John Jacob McEntee, Garland; Trent McKnight, Throckmorton; Jody Miller, Booker; Monte J Mokszycki, Lewisville; Andrea Michelle Moses Strand, Denton; Ryan Mott, Quanah; Andrew Shane Mutina, Pearland; Douglas James Noll, Falls City; Pete Papwelek, Pleasanton; Crystal Perriraz, Calallen; Tamara Pickard, Scurry Rosser; Terri Poppe, Weimar; Kimberly Renee Reich, Cisco; Vernon Rich, Weimar; Wayne Richards, Coldspring; Carilee Robbins, Bandera; Mark Roznovsky, Calallen; Robert Sanchez Jr, Cotulla; Stacy Leanne Brown Schertz, Ponder; Greg Schilling, Slaton; Kelly Renae Schneider, Rogers; Robert Schubert, Lexington; Nicholas Travis Seaton, Meadow; Clifton Shearrer, Pleasanton; James Wade Siebman, Bowie; Jarrod Ray Smith, Troy; Bee Jay Squires, Odem; Scott Stedje, Gruver; Megan C Teel, Bryan; Cody Timmons, Motley County; Lauri Vaughn, Cooper; Kirby Watson, Katy; Jeff Weber, Pilot Point; April Westbrook, Baytown Sterling; Kristie Williams, Katy; Marcus Williams, Salado; Will Winter, Idalou; Jonathan Caleb Wolfe, Northwest; Gerrit Young,

Tomball; **UTAH:** Jill Anderson, Lone Peak; Michael Archibald, Bear River; Neil Bailey, Weber; Bjarn S Beamson, Spanish Fork; Jonathon Bell, Payson; Micah Wayne Capener, Bear River; Jeremy Cowley, Richfield; Tori Lee Ferguson, Payson; Jeffery Gittins, Sky View; Lynn Godfrey, Bear River; Chris T Goode, Wasatch; Kandi S Hansen, Fremont; Shane Hardy, Lone Peak; Anne Haueter, Wasatch; Joseph Mark Humphrey, Emery Sr; Haley Hunting, Fremont; Jason Jarvie, Manila; Robert M Jensen, Richfield; Shantel Keller, Wasatch; Amber Larsen, Manila; Pat Leddy, South Sevier; John Lewis, Lehi; Jed Lundell, Payson; Thomas Maples, Sky View; Michelle Okerlund, South Sevier; Mark Openshaw, Payson; Kelli Park, Wasatch; Kerri Lyn Park, Wasatch; Mark Porritt, Bear River; Alan Rail, Wasatch; T J Rhodes, Bear River; Brett Sterling Robertson, Payson; Justen Chris Selman, Bear River; Shawn W Silcox, Payson;

Central; Clint Lyle, Buffalo Gap; Brian P Reiter, Dinwiddie; Mark Stephen Reiter, Dinwiddie; Roger Lee Riggleman Jr, Stonewall Jackson; Mark E Sutphin, James Wood; Kathryn E Threewitts, Spotswood; William Lewin Walther, Turner Ashby; Todd White, Broadway; **WASHINGTON:** Neil Appel, Colfax; Scott Bedlington, Lynden; Paul Booker, Othello; Sonia M Borba, Othello; Brian S Carlson, Yelm; Jason Emerson, Almira-Coulee-Hartline; Jennie Farwell, Othello; Mary Catherine Flick, Tonasket; Matt Flood, Zillah; Joshua Paul Golob, Granger; Jane Gutzwiller, Wenatchee; Brad L Haag, Wenatchee; Nathaniel A Hahner, Liberty; Michael R Hastings, Pomeroy; Jason Hinton, Wenatchee; Adrian C Higginbotham, Almira-Coulee-Hartline; Ryan W Higginbotham, Almira-Coulee-Hartline; Jaime Hinton, Sedro-Woolley; Karen Hutchinson, Rochester; Casey Rogers Kooistra,

Plymouth; Jennifer Lee Benz, Green Bay Preble; Seth Berg, Pulaski; Jason R Bernick, Spencer; Bill Biadasz, Amherst; Scott C Boatman, Darlington; Karl E Bobholz Jr, Randolph; Jesse Thomas Bollinger, Cochrane-Fountain City; Jason Adam Bork, Cochrane-Fountain City; Mary J Bork, Weyauwega-Fremont; Nicholas Brattlie, Cambridge; Tracie Brede, Bonduel; Christy Brewer, Weyauwega-Fremont; Kari Brown, Juda; Kathi Jo Brown, Juda; Barbara Rose Brusky, Pulaski; Sarah A Colby, Sauk Prairie; Jessica Creamer, Waupaca; Bridget Dahm, Elkhart Lake; Amy Dorn, Edgerton; Michael J Dorshorst, Poynette; Darin F Drews, Randolph; Shawn R Eckerman, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Cameron R Edler, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Michelle L Ensich, Shullsburg; Shaun Farrell, Fort Atkinson; Bryon D Feller, Monticello; Kristen Fetting, Cochrane-Fountain City; Mary Beth Feucht, Mayville; Josh Gamer, Cochrane-Fountain City; Melissa Ann Gerlach, Marshfield; Jonathan Gibbs, Waupun; Brock R Gill, Shullsburg; Gail Glodowski, Amherst; Melissa S Goers, Gresham; Jessica Lynn Golding, Waupaca; Arlaina Lynn Gonske, Rice Lake; James A Good, Marshfield; Shawn M Grams, Randolph; Kathy Grindey, Shullsburg; Ian J Groff, Oshkosh North; Eric Gudex, Mayville; Brian Jon Hall, Tomah; Mary Handrich, Weyauwega-Fremont; Rebecca M Harter, Oconto Falls; Timothy F Hasler, Monroe; Stacy Heck, Neillsville; Austin Heideman, Manawa; Gina M Helstad, Black River Falls; John Herbert Herbst, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Trisha Lynn Hieronimeczak, Pulaski; Julie L Hill, Johnson Creek; Scott Holland, Pardeeville; Shalome Lanai Jaquish, Sauk Prairie; Robert Raymond Jarek, Bonduel; David Jennings, Rio; Abby M Johnson, Pulaski; Josh Johnson, Shullsburg; Shawn J Johnsrud, Pecatonica-Blanchardville; Rebecca Jordan, Johnson Creek; Kellie Jo Keehn, Monticello; Tracy Kieffer, Darlington; Kenneth Clair Kieler, Darlington; Kimberly Ann Kramer, Oshkosh West; Kirk John Kramp, Marshfield; James M Krueger II, Hillsboro; Alexandra Dee Larson, Osceola; Andrew P Leonard, Pecatonica-Blanchardville; Holly A Lonning, Neillsville; Andrew R Loosen, Hartford; Dale R Maass, Seymour; Kristine Maroszek, Pulaski; Aaron McMillan, Poynette; Melanie J Melander, Spencer; James A Melby, Waupaca; Beth Ann Mielke, Marion; Daniel T Miesen, Platteville; Tracy Miller, Green Bay East; Erin E Mullen, Milton; Lanae Ginette Nelson, Osceola; Joe Neuser, Mishicot; Matthew J Norberg, Prairie Farm; Bryan Jeffery Novacheck, Hillsboro; Mark A Oft, Randolph; Ben Olson, Loyal; Joe

Ostrowski, Amherst; Beth Ann Planz, Waupaca; Ryan M Powers, Lake Mills; Dustin George Raddatz, Oshkosh West; Travis Radloff, Omro; Matthew D Reinders, Johnson Creek; Jill Reinke, Bonduel; Amanda M Riley, Waupaca; Michelle Rivamonte, Oconto Falls; Emily M Roidt, Montello; Paul William Ryan, Waupaca; Jill Marie Schaffner, Cochrane-Fountain City; Wayne Larry Schaitel, Sparta; Melissa Schommer, Waupaca; Andrew Schraufnagel, Mayville; Bridget Schultz, Shullsburg; Jason A Schultz, Black Hawk-South Wayne; Johneen Leilani Schwab, Fall Creek; Shawn James Skorstad, Waterford; Angela Smith, Cambridge; Tracy Smithback, Cambridge; Bart Sopa, Amherst; Josh Sykora, Bloomer; Derin L Tangwall, Weyauwega-Fremont; Nicole Linda Thalacker, Beaver Dam; Jason E Toufar, Spencer; Mark Tracy, Riverdale; Chad M Traun, Durand; Holli Trowbridge, New Auburn; Terry J Turpin, Hillsboro; Joe Ubersox, Shullsburg; Jenny Van Egtern, Waupun; Melissa VanderLinden, Green Bay Southwest; Matthew D Vellema, Waupun; Jason Wakeman, Rio; Sarah Dorothy Weber, Plymouth; Adam Michael Wehling, Fall Creek; Mike Weigel, Platteville High School; Danny Darrell Wessels, Riverdale; Ben Aaron Wiedenfeld, Lake Mills; Pamela Wilder, Osseo-Fairchild; Jeannie M Winkelman, Watertown; Elizabeth Ann Zangl, Mayville; Paul Zastoupil, Tomah; Jamie Zimmerman, Fall Creek; **WYOMING:** Mark J Avery, Lander; Paul Bauder, Douglas; Amy Bradley, Cheyenne East; Stacy L Child, Cheyenne East; Ross Cochran, Torrington; Danielle Cox, Burns; Corey Forman, Powell; Jasi Michele Hadden, Powell; Alan Hamner, Lyman; Brian Lewis, Snowy Range; Shawn Miller, Buffalo; Stephanie Moore, Wright; Amanda Mullins, Riverside; James Sedman, Southeast; Heith L Waddell, Cheyenne East; Traci Walton, Cheyenne East; Corey Blake Whitlock, Pine Ridge; Patrick Zimmerer, Southeast;

american FFA degree

Calvin Smart, Lone Peak; Karlee Smith, Payson; Rodney J Spencer, Morgan County; Joshua Dean Staheli, Woods Cross; Trevor Sulser, Wasatch; Tamra Sutherland, Mt Nebo; Kasee Lynn Sweat, Lehi; Melissa Swenson, Payson; Adrienne Dawn Twitchell, Lone Peak; Justin Ward, Sky View; **VERMONT:** Joshua A Panton, Vergennes; Lee R Pratt, Vergennes; Jennie Vander Wey, Vergennes; **VIRGINIA:** Eliza Tsianina Baldwin, Nelson County; Tara L Barton, Central; James T Begoon, Fort Defiance; Christopher E Bielmyer, Dinwiddie County; Ryan S Blosser, Turner Ashby; Ralph Garnett Booher III, John S Battle; Bryan Craig Breeden, Spotswood; Nathan Brewbaker, Christiansburg; John E Davis Jr, Atlee; Joseph Malcolm Emswiler, Broadway; Samantha Fauble, Sherando; Rodney A Foltz, Central; Chad Douglas Francis, Halifax County; Donna Lynnette Hall, Amelia County Senior; Kenneth A Hammer Jr, Spotswood; Jason Hatton, Fort Defiance; Catherine M Hess, Turner Ashby; Gregory Joseph Holsinger, Wilson Memorial; Mary Beth Hylton, Fort Defiance; Barner Jones, Park View Sr; Barry Allen Jones, Amelia County; Ashlie Kiracofe, Fort Defiance; Ryan Kiracofe, Buffalo Gap; Winston I Knight, Spotswood; Daniel Robert Lauro, Fort Defiance; Troy Lawson, Buffalo Gap; Bradley Lutz,

Quincy; Robert Matthews, Rochester; Ryan Mensonides, Yelm; Ian Murdoch, Walla Walla; Crystal Nelson, Winlock; Melissa Ney, Yelm; Michelle Ney, Yelm; Bruce H Petty, Asotin; Jon James Schlee, Asotin; Nathan Schuyleman, Wenatchee; Rebecca J Thomson, Ferndale; Phoebe Walkling, Rochester; Daneice N Witt, Yelm; **WEST VIRGINIA:** Nathan Thomas Alt, Mineral County; Kamden Barnett, Ripley; Paul D Burdette Jr, Roane County; David Canterbury, Ripley; Cynthia Roxanne Clay, Greenbrier West; Jonathan Cummings, Roane County; Suzanne Renea Cummings, Roane County; Christopher Lynn Cunningham, Barbour County; Jeff Curry, Ripley; John Frank Erwin Jr, Doddridge County; Jeremy Bay Fletcher, Tyler; Jami K Godfrey, Ripley; Roger G Hanshaw, Clay County; Michael Paul Knapp, Roane County; Nathan L Knopp, Ripley; Barbara Sue Linton, Hedgesville; Rocky M Mason, Jefferson; Candace Minear, Ravenswood; Marvin Dewayne Paxton Jr, Roane County; Jeanetta Rana Peggs, Gilmer County; Carrie Beth Ruddle, Pendleton County; Michael Shamblyn, Roane County; Christopher Tomlin, Ripley; **WISCONSIN:** Ryan R Alvin, Randolph; Chad Wilbur Baldwin, Hillsboro; Vicki Lynn Balthazor, Bonduel; Marshall Barton, Stoutton; Curtis Baskin, Durand;

retiring address

it all begins with middle C

As a little girl of about eight, I began to take piano lessons. I was so excited because I was going to learn to play my favorite song from Sunday school—Jesus Loves Me. I remember sitting at my teacher's piano. I was barely tall enough to see the keys and my feet dangled off the bench. Even though I was young, I so badly wanted to learn how to play piano like my big sister did. I thought that I could just start off playing right away! But learning piano, learning how to sing or playing a musical instrument doesn't work that way. You know, sitting at this bench taught me more than just piano. Yes, I had to learn the basics of piano... notes, rhythms, chords, scales. And, I even learned some of those famous songs we hear on the piano today, like chopsticks and Für Elise.

While learning the notes and the songs, I couldn't help but also learn some important lessons on life. What I found is that life is a lot like playing the piano. Just like you begin each song by finding middle C, we each have to find the center of our lives. Once we find what is most important to us—our middle C—the payoff is wonderful and we can go share our talents with the rest of the world. It all begins with middle C.

So, as I began my piano lessons as an eight-year-old girl, what do you suppose was the first thing that I had to learn? I had to learn where "middle C" was located on the keyboard. It's just a note but everything in music revolves around it. The notes on the page do not make any sense unless you have a central reference point from which to play. Middle C is that center point. I remember my piano teacher telling me to stop and to look where my hands were. Then she would tell me to start again with my thumb on middle C. If I did not start from the center, then the music would not sound right. If you think about music in general, whether you like rap, alternative, ska, or country, none of that would be possible without the basic building blocks in music. Those building blocks all begin with middle C.

In today's society it seems like we have forgotten about middle C. We have forgotten some of the basics on which everything else is built. We spend so much time wrapped up in our hectic lives and crazy schedules. We spend our days rushing to get to school on time, rushing to get the last minute homework done before class starts,

**Lisa E. Ahrens, National FFA President
72nd National FFA Convention
Ninth General Session**



and rushing to get to work on time. We are in constant search of material things that will make us happy. We think we need money, new cars, and cell phones or pagers to make us a part of the cool group. Instead, we should remember what my piano teacher made me do when she told me to stop, take a second and find middle C.

So, FFA members have you ever stopped to think about where your middle C is? We all need to know where the center is in our lives. What are your core values that you use as building blocks for the rest of your life? If your life takes a wrong turn, where do you go searching for the answers to take you back to where you belong?

To truly find your own middle C, you must invest the time to discover what is most important to you. Once you find those things, plan your life around them. These are the core values that you care the most about. For me, my faith, family, friends, and our family farm are my center. Those are the four things that I can go back to when life takes me in the wrong direction. I know that my faith will always provide me with a strong foundation on which to build. I know that my family and friends will love me unconditionally no matter what happens in my life. And

after a very busy schedule, nothing beats going back to the family farm that I call home. These are the most important things in my life.

These are my middle C. So what is yours? Where is your middle C? Who are the people that are most important to you—that allow you to be you? Maybe it is your mom, dad, guardian, teacher or your friend. They are a part of your center, your middle C. What is it that makes you the happiest? Is it the sport that you excel at—basketball, tennis, volleyball or track? Maybe you can sing or play piano. Recognizing what you are good at is a part of finding your middle C.

Have you ever been working on something and suddenly had the feeling, "Oh... I love this!" That is a part of your middle C!

It may seem weird to think about those things that center you. But FFA members, when you reach the point where you know your core values, you are truly living your life by what is most important to you and not what others may think. When you find your center, you will find happiness and contentment. It all begins with middle C.

So why invest the time to find middle C? Why do piano teachers constantly remind us to find middle C? How many of you have ever sat in a high school class and wondered “why?” or “What is the purpose of this class?” The purpose of finding your middle C is to understand who you really are and what you stand for. In doing that, you can find how to be happy and content no matter what is going on around you.

How many of you look in the mirror and see everything that is wrong with you? I weigh too much, I weigh too little, I am not tall enough, I wish I had blonde hair, I wish I had more athletic ability. We are constantly in a state of comparing ourselves to others around us. We judge ourselves on whether or not we have the “in” clothes, or whether or not we hang out with the cool crowd at school. We measure ourselves against these things. So what? At times I find myself comparing my abilities to my classmates or teammates, I know that I won’t be as talented because their talent is a gift. I will never be able to play sports like Jose, I can’t play guitar like James, and I can’t harmonize like Emily. But that’s part of what makes them special, not me. Once you find your middle C, you get past comparing. And that’s when you find the self-confidence, the worth and the happiness that allows you to be you.

When you’ve found your center, can you still lose sight of what’s important? Of course you can! Even I lose my center. It is just like practicing piano. The music is always there in front of you, written how it should go, but it takes continued practice to get it right.

Many of you that I have met this year know that I love to water-ski. In slalom water-skiing, it takes some balance to stay up on the ski. Part of the challenge is learning how to cut back and forth across the wake. The better I became, the faster I could begin to cut from side to side. Each time though, I had to cross that place where I started, the smooth, safe water behind the center of the boat. And if we passed another boat, or I hit some rough water when skiing, I knew that if I didn’t get back to the calm, smooth water in the

back to the calm, smooth water in the center, it would result in a monstrous face plant! If I worried each time that I would fall, or run into the monstrous waves from another boat, it would start to affect my performance, and the same is true in other things besides skiing. Each time a wave in life comes towards me, I have to take a step back and go back to what is really important to me. I have to find middle my C again. When I look back at those times in my life when I was upset or troubled, every time I had missed my middle C.

The purpose of finding your middle C is to understand who you really are and what you stand for. In doing that, you can find how to be happy and content no matter what is going on around you.

Every day each of us can be led away from center by all kinds of things. It may be people who ask us to be someone that we are not, or the need to be popular and the demands of all our activities. Only you know what pulls you away from your middle C. Don’t let it!

Why should you find your middle C? Because the payoff is beyond belief. When you find your middle C, you find true happiness, confidence in yourself, and belief in your abilities. Just as the melody is the heart and soul of any musical piece, when you find middle C you have created your own melody—a melody that is different from anyone else’s. It is one that is special in its own rite

One of the scariest things I can remember, is the first time that I had to play piano at my first recital. My hands were frozen cold, my knees were shaking, and I was so nervous I thought

I would forget the entire song!! It was going to be the first time I actually had an audience to watch me play. The only way I survived that recital was to sit down at the piano, take a deep breath, and instead of seeing 88 keys in front of me, focus on one that I knew for sure—middle C. My first recital was a success! It was the first time I got to take my talents and turn them outward for others to enjoy.

This year, one of my favorite memories on the road reminded me of all the piano recitals I used to play in. At the Mississippi State FFA Convention, the talent show had just been completed and almost everyone had headed home for the evening, except for a few. Someone asked me to play piano and almost everyone had headed home for the evening, except for a few. Someone asked me to play piano and that was all it took. My two piano playing buddies, Joseph and Ryan, took over from there. The evening was filled with singing, playing piano and laughter. We didn’t realize how fast the time had gone until it was 11:30 p.m., an hour-and-a-half after we started. It didn’t take much, but a few people gave the 15-20 others who were there a small gift that night. Everyone left with a smile on their face and a bounce in their step. All because Joseph and Ryan weren’t afraid to share their talents with others.

God gave us each many special talents. Simply occupying space is not why we were put on this earth. There is so much more than that to do. It is how you interact with others around you to create the harmonies in your life. Are you letting your talents spill over into other people’s lives? That is where you can truly make a difference in this world. The greatest joy we can experience is not only our achievements, but helping someone else reach his or her own accomplishment as well. You must find your center, so you can use your abilities to help others around you, to help make your family better, your community better, and help make our world better. You must create and share your melody. It doesn’t have to be drastic! It is the little notes that start the melodies like smiling at a stranger on the street or telling your parents you love them. Before long, all those little notes form the melody that will become your masterpiece.

My friends, take time to find your middle C. Create your own melody, and share it with the rest of the world.

when is the end?

José Santiago, Southern Region Vice President
72nd National FFA Convention
Sixth Convention Session

I had a great time in high school! I played basketball, baseball, I swam and I also loved gymnastics! In fact I wanted to be in everything! I wanted to fit in with the other students and be seen as cool. It was exhausting! Soon after getting involved, I would ask myself, "When is the end of the basketball season?" "When is the last volleyball game?" or "When is the end of my high school years?" Maybe you have asked yourself these same questions.

Throughout the years I have seen that materialistic aspects of life like sports, clothing and money have endings! You are in high school, and in a couple years you will be in college, working, or both. You might be on a baseball team, in the band, in different organizations or involved in your church. You may find yourself asking "When will this activity end?"

The answer to that question may be very simple—the last baseball game of the season or the final band concert. In the big picture of life there are questions that are hard to answer. They are more difficult because they involve people and our ability to give and forgive in these relationships.

When is the end of giving? What does giving even mean? Does it mean giving everything away? No way, Jose! You may say, "Why should I give if no one ever has given me anything?" We are so focused on what we receive and how we look or how cool we are, when what really matters is giving from the heart. I am frustrated when I see others putting materialistic things first instead of extending their hand to those people who need someone. Giving! What a simple concept, but how much we struggle with it! Givers are great human beings! They love you for who you are. They inspire you, they care and they give without expecting anything in return!

When I was ten years old I learned the true meaning of giving. Now, ten was a pretty cool age because I learned how to ride my bike. My mom would hold my bicycle steady for me because I was not too coordinated! One day I asked my mom if I could go outside to ride my bicycle, but she told me "no" because she was busy! Guess what? I went right outside and climbed on that bike without her approval. Bad idea! With my unsteady balance and a lack of experience,

I wobbled right out into the street just in time to lose control. I looked up to see that there were five cars coming from one direction and one car from the other.

You don't need to be a scientist, an Olympian, a national officer or even a chapter officer to be a giver. Start now. Give encouragement to a friend who needs it. Hug your teammates.... Start now because tomorrow may be too late! Commit today to a life of giving.

That is all I remember. I broke my leg, but I was going to be fine. The ambulance carried me to the hospital and my mom met me there. I was super scared, not because of the pain in my leg, but because I had disobeyed my mom. I thought I would be in big trouble. I had my head down and I said, "Mom, I am so sorry". My mom said, "Jose it doesn't matter to me, the only thing that matters is that I still have you. I love you no matter what." That moment I learned what giving is. My mom was able to give her love and support to me when she could have been angry.

So, when is the end of giving? Never! My friends, I believe that living a life of giving never ends! You will give others hope that will live on forever as they share that hope throughout the world. When was the last time that you told your friend, dad, mom,

teacher or FFA advisor that you love them because they give to you? FFA members, you have shown me from the very first time that I came to convention that this organization is for people who want to give of themselves and help others.

I count myself blessed because I have seen you give of yourselves in community service, helping other members succeed and helping the agricultural industry by learning and caring about its future. You have taught me that it is not about building my dreams, it is about building people. Each time that you gave me a ride to the airport, invited me to stay in your homes or wrote me a letter, I saw that you, FFA members, are the best givers in the world.

You don't need to be a scientist, an Olympian, a national officer or even a chapter officer to be a giver. Start now. Give encouragement to a friend who needs it. Hug your teammates. Write to your best friend to tell them how much you care. Put your arm around your mom and dad and say, "I love you." Start now, because tomorrow may be too late! Commit today to a life of giving.

When you do, you will find that giving is easy with your friends. But it is very tough to give to someone who has hurt you. To truly live a life of giving you must also live a life of forgiving. So when is the end of forgiving?

OOPS! You know we all make mistakes. It is really hard to accept that and forgive ourselves. It's even more difficult to forgive those people around us! I guarantee you that one of the most important things that you can give to someone is forgiveness. When is the end of forgiving others?

As a child I experienced challenges and struggles forced me to learn forgiveness the hard way. My father was an alcoholic. In December of 1979, I

retiring address

was eight months old. One night my Dad came home intoxicated and started to abuse my mom. He broke her left arm and threw her down the stairs. But that was not all. I was in my crib and he took me in his arms and threw me from a window and walked out of our lives forever. I grew up with physical impairments and learning disabilities. My friends, I was not able to walk because of the damage to my back. The doctors told my mom that I would never be able to walk, run or even play. I had to go through a lot of therapy. During one of my swimming sessions a miracle occurred! After seven years I moved my legs for the very first time. God truly blessed me with this miracle! From that point on, I continued with more intensive rehabilitation. For the first time I hoped that I could live a normal life. But through this entire time, I still didn't know why. "Why am I in this wheelchair? Why do I need special education class? Why do others have a dad while I don't?"

In December of 1991 my world fell apart when my mom gave me the answers to the questions—the story I just shared with you. I remembered feeling very angry with my dad. One day my mother sat me down and said, "Jose, don't be mad towards your father, because he is a human being. We must forgive because we all make mistakes." But I was still angry with my dad, I blamed God and I was unhappy with my life.

I realized that if my mother could avoid hating my father for abusing her, then I could also be strong enough to forgive him. It was very difficult to do, but I let go of the anger. I decided that even though he hurt everyone in my family and chose not to be a part of our lives, I could still love him. I confess to you that my biggest dream in life is to meet him and tell him, "I love you, Dad!" I can do this because I made a conscious choice to give him the gift of forgiveness.

Close your eyes and think about a time when you made a mistake. Were you given the gift of forgiveness? I hope you were.

If your neighbor talks negatively about you forgive them. If you fail, forgive yourself. Because my friends, when you forgive, you can be forgiven! When is the end of forgiving?

Never! When we live a life of giving and forgiving, our actions will live on forever, making those who come after us happier and more successful. The hard part for us is living a life of giving and forgiving day by day.

One simple answer for two difficult questions! When is the end of giving? Never! When is the end of forgiving? Never! When we give and forgive, we are appreciating people around us. It's so easy to forget about people who are starving in other countries, dying from disease or who need a little compassion. We are fortunate to live in a country where families are valued and peace and freedom reign.

FFA members, you are exceptional. I see enough potential giving and forgiving in you to bring hope to the homeless, love to the lost and strength to the weak. FFA members give and forgive! Because when is the end of giving and forgiving? You have the answer! May God bless all of you!





"We stand tall only because we stand on the backs of those who came before us." FFA members were enraptured as Danny Glover recounted his boyhood on his grandparents' farm. Glover was sponsored by The Humana Foundation as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.



As a Vietnam veteran who was severely disfigured when a grenade exploded in his hand, Dave Roever relayed a message of survival and overcoming adversity. His powerful oration brought FFA members to tears, then laughter, and left them filled with hope. Roever was sponsored by United Parcel Service (UPS) as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

convention speakers



Humorist and motivational speaker Emory Austin offered a message of hope and inspiration to FFA members. "The world needs your ounce of difference," she told the crowd gathered in Freedom Hall.



Worldwide adventurer and author Jaime Clark mesmerized and entertained FFA members with his inspiring story of human triumph. He shared his message of overcoming obstacles and coping with rapid change.

retiring address

people need people

James Garner, Western Region Vice President
72nd National FFA Convention
Eighth Convention Session

*Where were you when I needed you?
I needed to talk, I needed a friend.
You make me laugh and you make me smile.
But it's hard when you're gone awhile.
And so I found that people need people.*

Many times over the last twelve months, I would pick up a guitar just to play and soothe my soul. Many times people asked the question, "What one thing did you learn most from this year?" To be honest, it was always hard to give just one answer, but that answer finally came to me one day as I was playing the guitar. So I thought, why not write a song? One of my dreams is to become a songwriter, so here was my chance. Now, unfortunately, I can't whip out my guitar and sing a song every time someone asks the question, "What did you learn most this year?" But I do know that what I learned most was that the people around me—my friends, family, and loved ones—are vital to my happiness. FFA members, I wouldn't be surprised to find out that you feel the same way. It is imperative that you fulfill your need for friendship, fill your life with healthy and positive friends, and dedicate effort and time to nurture a positive relationship.

SONG:

*It's the same old line.
I want this and I want that.
If I just had more time.
If I just had more money.
If I just had it all.
But what you and I really need to find true happiness.
Well it's not from success,
it's not by being the best,
cause I found that people need people.*

I want, I want, I want. How many times do we hear that in our lives? How many times have we said it before? The answer is probably too many times. I want to be rich. I want to be famous. I want to be a pro wrestler. I want to be like Mike. I want to be Shania Twain. I want to be an international man of mystery like Austin Powers. I want to be Johnny Cash—okay, maybe that's only me. The point is we go through life with many wants, but the only thing that really matters is our needs. FFA members, the fact of the matter is that one of those needs is social interaction...in other words friendship. Now you're probably thinking,

"James, that's not a need!" Air, water, food and shelter are needs to sustain life. In fact, on the hierarchy of basic human needs, those are the top four. Obviously you will die without those, but number five behind those is social interaction—the need for a friend. Now, I'm sure that each of you have people in your lives that are special to you. You enjoy spending time with them and they are a real part of you and when you're not around them there is a feeling of emptiness and dejection.

I have always been a huge drag racing fan. My dad had raced and worked on crews and I loved to go to the races. The one race that I always wanted to attend was the U.S. Nationals in Indianapolis. It was the mother of all drag races—the biggest one in the world! This year I had the chance to go and I was pumped. I thought that this was going to be the greatest thing in my life. I would go to the races for three straight days and see cars speeding at three hundred miles an hour, sometimes on fire, and people cheering and yelling for it all. The race was great, but as I left the race track I had the emptiest feeling in the world. It was no doubt the loneliest time of my life. I sat in the grandstands for six hours by myself with no one to talk to. Yes, there were a hundred thousand people there, but none were my friends. I needed to be with someone I knew.

How many times is it the same old line? I'll be happy if I get elected to chapter office or if I make the high school basketball team. None of that matters if no one is there to share it with you. For instance, you go to a basketball court and make two hundred shots in a row, but no one else was there to see you. It would be great if someone could enjoy the moment with you. If no one is there to share that moment, it could be pretty lonely. Ladies and gentlemen, each of us must find people to fill that need in our lives. FFA members, I'm asking you to think about your wants and needs, and really put them into

perspective. Put people who add quality to your life at the top of your list.

SONG:

*There's a void in my life and it cuts me like a knife.
I must have someone there.
Any ol' person won't fit the shoe.
There's certain things they gotta do.
And I'm just looking for a friend.
When I'm up I want some fun
and when I'm down I'm on the run.
But then you come and pick me up.
You give me comfort and love.
And I found that people need people.*

We all have a need—a need for a friend. But any old person won't fit the shoe—there are certain things they gotta do. Think about it this way. The plumbing in your house starts to go out and it needs to be fixed. It needs to be fixed by a plumber, but you can't afford one, so you just use duct tape to fix the problem. The need is fulfilled, but not in a good way. It's not the best possible fit, but it suffices. How many times do we let that happen in our lives with relationships? I'm afraid the answer is too many times. Our need for friendship must be filled with healthy relationships, with people who add quality to our lives. What is a healthy relationship? Well it's one that provides encouragement, fun, comfort and love.

When I'm up and I want to have some fun, I get together with my college roommates, Nate and Ryan. Now you must understand that Nate and Ryan are big on exercise. As for me, I like to have a little cover for the winter, if you know what I mean. But they convinced me to play racquetball and it was a lot fun. I don't know what it was, maybe the fact that the ball seemed to hit me square between the eyes more often than square on the racquet, but it was fun. We spent more time rolling around on the ground laughing than playing racquetball. But it is also when I'm down, that my two friends provide pick me up and comfort. If I came

from school and had a bad day, they were there to encourage and console me. I'm sure you've heard the phrase, choose your friends wisely. It couldn't be more true. FFA members surround yourself with people who bring you up, not drag you down. At school, you might feel like you can't be with the "in-crowd" so you'll just settle to be with negative people. Your well-being, your happiness and your inner-peace are far too important to just have the attitude of "I'll settle for this." FFA members, seek out the people who give you comfort and love.

SONG:

*And in our lives we're so
wrapped up just tryin' to get by.
How do I grow a friend?
One who's with me to the end.
It's not an easy thing to do.
You must commit and
see it through to grow that friend.
But the one thing we never seem to
give.
It's the most precious thing of all.
Cause when people need people.
They really need their time.*

FFA members, think of someone important to you. Three things can happen to your relationship by tomorrow. It could get weaker, it could stay the same or it could grow stronger. I would like to think that we would all want our relationships with others to grow stronger. How do you grow a friend who's with you to the end? It's not an easy thing to do. You must commit and see it through.

When I was in second grade, I was determined to learn all of the presidents of the United States. Of course that is not exactly a normal thing for a seven-year-old to do. But then there has never really been anything "normal" about me. So, every waking moment, I was reading a book about presidents, watching a biography, or dressing up like Franklin Roosevelt for Halloween in third grade or Abe Lincoln the following year. I had problems. But, I was dedicated and it paid off. I could ramble off every president from George Washington to Ronald Reagan, (it was the eighties) and I could tell you a fact about each

one. I could tell you John Adams was the first to live in the White House. Andrew Jackson had a pet parrot that would swear. William Henry Harrison only served one month. James Buchanan was the only bachelor. James Garfield could write in Greek with his left hand and Latin with his right hand at the same time. The list went on and on.

The same is true to build a healthy relationship. No, you don't have to memorize the presidents, but you do have to be dedicated and determined to care about another person and to totally focus on strengthening your friendship. The attitude of "I'll get by" or "This is good enough," does not work with people—it certainly doesn't grow any type of relationship. The most precious thing you can give to another person is your time.



Folks, we can be serious about building a healthy relationship until we are blue in the face, but if we don't take the time it will never happen. Strong friendships are built when people do things together. It can be playing cards, Nintendo, golf, bowling or a great talk on a Sunday afternoon. As some of you know, I'm a huge Johnny Cash fan. I would love to build a great friendship with him. I have been very determined to do that for many years now. My first try to establish a friendship was after one of his shows. I ran around the back of the auditorium where his bus was parked. Just as he was stepping on to the bus, I stopped him.

I was just a little nervous—actually very nervous. In fact, I was so nervous that my voice went up eight octaves and I screeched, "I'm your biggest fan." In his deep voice he replied, "Glad to know you." The next words out of my mouth were quite possibly the dumbest I have ever said: "I can sing just like you!" He replied half jokingly, "I'm sure you can son." Needless to say our relationship didn't have the greatest start. But I was still determined. Since 1993, I have invited Johnny Cash to my home each year on February 26th to celebrate his birthday. Sadly enough, he has not shown up for six years straight. I have concluded that our relationship will never grow because we have not spent any time together. The energy and effort was there, but no time was invested.

Folks, we get so wrapped up in day to day life. We have homework to do, soccer practice, football practice and we have chores to do—it's tough! But when it's all said and done, are we going to remember the B+ we received on the math test? Are we going to remember that no nail polish goes with national blue and corn gold? I don't think so. I sincerely hope we will all remember the people who were there for us when we needed them, who listened and who were true friends. There are a handful of people in our lives who fulfill our need of friendship. Take the time to grow and sustain those friendships.

We all need positive relationships. We want them to add quality to our lives. When you leave here today, I ask that you do two things. On your way home, I want you to think of one person in your life who is important to you. Make a personal commitment to strengthen your relationship. Secondly, make a list of all the ways you can spend time with that person. Whether the person is a parent, teacher or a friend you've had since second grade, start planning activities you can do together. Make the commitment to share yourself and your time with people you care about.

Don't let it be the same old line. Fill the void in your life. Listen, laugh, smile and give your time to others.

Happiness comes not from success or from being the best. It comes from being a friend, because ... people... need ... people.

how do you measure up?

Emily Buxton, Eastern Region Vice President
72nd National FFA Convention
Fifth Convention Session

According to grandma's refrigerator I am short. See, I grew up with six cousins and a little brother. Between the oldest and youngest there are only six years. All of us live within three miles of one another, so we rode the school bus together and were in the same Sunday school classes.

Nine times a year we were at grandma and grandpa's house for either a birthday or Christmas. I don't know when this all started but it became tradition to grab the measuring stick out of the hall closet, stand tall with our backs against the refrigerator, and measure our height by using the magnets as markers. We kept track of our heights on a little index card that we displayed on the refrigerator for all to see.

I wrote the numbers "five, five" by my name when I was probably thirteen or fourteen. I didn't realize then that they would never change again. I watched as birthday after birthday, Christmas after Christmas, each of the others erased their numbers and recorded bigger ones. The girls shot past me. Soon the boys did, too. My little brother even grew to be taller than the refrigerator. So I am officially the shortest cousin.

All of us probably have memories of measuring our height as we grew up. Many times a certain height meant we were allowed to do something. Like when you were big enough to wear hand-me-downs from a favorite brother or sister, or you were finally taller than that red stick and you could ride the "real" roller coasters. But as we've grown older, the ways that we measure ourselves have changed a little.

For many of us, the things and people we measure ourselves against affect how we think about ourselves and how we treat others.

Even during a typical morning before school, we are surrounded by all kinds of measurements. The box that our favorite cereal comes in says that one serving is 3/4 cup. There is a size printed on the tag of our shirt and jeans and even in our shoes. As we're driving, we glance at the speedometer to measure our speed compared to the sign we see up ahead. We are constantly measuring things, so it only makes sense that we measure ourselves as well.

But the most important thing is how you measure yourself. The method you use to measure yourself determines your opinion of your self-worth. So how do you measure up when it comes to measuring yourself? Do you measure yourself by the size of your clothes, whether you have a boyfriend or girlfriend, the grades on your report card, points you score in a ball game, the office you hold in your chapter, the amount of money in your wallet? The list goes on and on. Deep down I think that most of us realize measuring ourselves according to physical aspects is pretty superficial. But, I still find myself doing it at times, and I'm sure you do too.

When you are trying to be your creative best, then you have no one to compete with or compare yourself to only your own potential. When someone else believes in us, we believe in ourselves. An individual who says they believe in you is really saying they believe in your potential to be your creative best. So by sharing your belief in others, you will be showing them the best way to measure themselves.

Maybe that's because we feel so connected to the things we do or the way we look. We just have to make sure that those things don't become our identity. Sure, they can be an important part of us, but they aren't us. Sometimes we may put too much emphasis on a certain part of our lives

and we measure ourselves by that. We need balance in our lives.

We all have times when we feel better about ourselves than other times. What kinds of things do you let determine that? Sometimes even things we consider healthy can become unhealthy when they are not in balance. For instance, all of us feel great when we are given attention. That's a healthy, natural need. But, this could be unhealthy if someone measured himself according to how much attention he received, whether it was a talk with a friend or time in the principal's office. Or, we've all heard that being physically fit gives us more energy and prevents us from becoming sick. This could cross the line to unhealthy though, if someone measured herself against models in magazines and was willing to starve herself to look that way.

The dangerous thing about measuring ourselves the wrong way is that we feel inadequate. And when we feel inadequate, then we act that way. We can never be our best, if we don't think we are capable of being our best.

How do you measure up against your creative best? Well, it's different for each person. That's because we are each different. The worst thing we can do is measure ourselves by comparing ourselves to others.

All through elementary school, I wanted more than anything to have a part in our school Christmas plays. I watched the older students and looked up to them so much. Finally I was able to try out for a part when I was in the sixth grade. The play was called Baa-Baa Bethlehem and all the main characters were sheep. This was especially exciting for me because I had sheep for my 4-H projects and had loved them all my life. I wanted to be a sheep in the play so badly.

When the parts were announced I was a little disappointed. I was a sheep, which is what I wanted, but I was

retiring address

Blanche. And Blanche's character was just what she sounds like—blah.

We all wore white sweatshirts and sweat pants, except the grumpy black sheep, Adrian and Angie. My pretty friend Stacey was the beautiful model sheep with a pink feather boa. Erica was a spunky singer, and so she was the rock star sheep with sunglasses and a guitar. Steve was very smart so he was the intellectual sheep with big glasses and a necktie. All the sheep wore something to reflect their personalities. And me? All I wore was plain old white. If these really reflected each of our personalities, then what did this say about me and my character?

But soon Blanche and I both discovered that we hadn't been measuring ourselves very well. During the play all of the sheep went to visit baby Jesus and share their gifts with him. Blanche didn't think she had any gifts to share because she had been comparing herself to each of the others. But she discovered that she had the best and most important gift of all—the gift of love. And I discovered that I couldn't keep comparing myself to other people, because that would never allow me to be all I am meant to be. You are unique. Too often we say that word unique when someone is extremely different. But that doesn't mean you have to have five earrings in one ear or a hidden tattoo. We are all different. In the book of Galatians, chapter six, verses four and five Paul writes, "Make a careful exploration of who you are and the work you have been given, and then sink yourself into that. Don't be impressed with yourself. Don't compare yourself with others. Each of you must take responsibility for doing the creative best you can with your own life."

Many of us never do find out what our true potential is—our creative best—because we quit trying when we failed once, or because we're simply afraid of what others will say. We can't measure ourselves by our past, only by our futures—by our potential to be our creative best. The only thing you should be measuring yourself

against is your own potential—and that is whatever you believe it is.

When we are measuring ourselves only against our own creative best, then we're not comparing ourselves to others. And when we're not comparing ourselves to others, we begin to see them differently.

Of course this isn't the norm in high school. We tend to give everyone a label. We even have groups in school so that everyone who measures up a certain way can be with others who are similar. You all know the cliques I am talking about. But I truly believe that if you start with yourself and you change the way you measure yourself, then ultimately you will change the way you measure others. How do you measure up when it comes to measuring others? If you stop judging others by their mistakes, and instead measure them by the potential you see in them, then not only will you look at them differently, but they will begin to see themselves differently. If someone accepts them not because of their physical appearance, but simply because of their heart, then the way they measure themselves may change too. Also, you won't view others as a threat anymore. Instead of being jealous of someone's talents or wealth, you can support them to help them be their creative best.

When you are trying to be your creative best, then you have no one to compete with or compare yourself to—only your own potential. When someone else believes in us, we believe in ourselves. An individual who says they believe in you is really saying they believe in your potential to be your creative best. So by sharing your belief in others, you will be showing them the best way to measure themselves.

Listen to your next conversation with a friend. If that friend says something about feeling bad because of his grades or her appearance, remind your friend that's not what makes them unique.

It will also help you stay in check with how you are viewing yourviewing yourself.

And it can go farther than your good friends. Do you even say hi or smile at your classmates when you walk down the halls of your school? We know there are students at our school who are unhappy, yet we usually ignore them. We tell ourselves that they're not one of our friends, so it's not our responsibility to care about them. But it is our responsibility!

And eventually, when we accept and respect everyone, when we measure others not by the person others judge them to be, but by the person we know they can be, then just imagine what our schools could be like.

How we measure ourselves determines so much in our lives. It definitely takes effort on our part to change how we measure ourselves to be our creative best and how we measure others to help them become their creative best. It's a different way of thinking, acting and living.

There are still those in this world who may measure you by your height, weight, I.Q., or salary. But, there's more to you than what they see when they look at you. It is more than the grades on your report card, more than the points you score in a ball game, more than the office that you hold, more than the money in your wallet. You are a unique individual with the potential to do as much as you believe. The only thing holding you back is deciding—how do you measure up?



retiring address

mediocre madness

"Local football star quits because of conflict with coach"

"Workers demand fewer hours and higher wages"

"Polls say character and integrity are not nearly as important as what he does for our economy"

"It wasn't my job, it's not my fault"

Extra!! Extra!! Read all about it. It's the newest wave that is sweeping the nation. It's in our schools and in our families. It's in small towns and large cities. Haven't you heard? This madness has swept into our lives. It is being delivered through our televisions and movies. It is evident in the headlines of the newspapers that are being dropped off at our front door steps. Oh, come on! You know what I am talking about. It is a craze that you and I see everyday in our lives and in the people around us. We have become so used to it. The madness is mediocrity.

For those of you who might be wondering what I mean by mediocrity, let me explain. It means I'll settle for being a five, even though I have the potential to be a ten. It means taking the easy way. It's the young man who quits when it hurts. It's the people who don't count our change back at the cash register or who don't say "please" and "thank you." It's lazy people who spend all their time whining. It's families that don't talk. It's people without hope. Mediocre means average. We settle for average. We settle for average grades, average friends, average teachers and preachers. We settle for average leaders. Our biggest challenge in an average world is average people. In fact, too many times we, as individuals, settle for being mediocre.

Charles Swindoll writes, "The greatest waste of our natural resources is the number of people who never achieve their potential. Get out of that slow lane. Shift into that fast lane. If you think you can't, you won't. If you think you can, there's a good chance you will. Even making the effort will make you feel like a new person. Reputations are made by searching for things that can't be done and doing them. Aim low: boring. Aim high: soaring."

Andy Armbruster, Central Region Vice President
72nd National FFA Convention
Fourth Convention Session



If you want to soar like a bald eagle that flies majestically in the sky with pride, if you want to live above the level of mediocrity, if you want to be a ten instead of a five, then, maybe, you might want to hear about a few things that I have learned. Now, there's no scientific proof to back up what I am going to share with you, and I doubt there is any information in your textbooks at school to support me. My information comes from life, from daily events and people I have seen soar. In fact, it comes from some of the things I have witnessed many of you do this year.

To fight mediocre madness in our lives, it begins with you and your vision - not so much by what you see through your eyes but what you see in your mind. Vision. It's such an exciting word. It's a word that moves a person or group forward. Vision sees beyond now and beyond average. My junior high basketball coach said, "Every time you go to bed at night, visualize yourself making all your free throws." Visualize success. If you want to be the best creed speaker, then visualize yourself giving the creed to the best of your abilities. Picture yourself winning the championship football game. Think about what the people there would say and how you

would feel. Taste it. Touch it. Grab it. Visualize yourself doing the right thing and being around the right people. Average people waste their time thinking about who did what to them or how they will just barely get by in their next challenge. The more our minds become cluttered with the garbage of today's society, the greater the chance we will have to be mediocre. Instead, we should fill our minds with visions of excellence. People who soar have vision.

Once you have visualized yourself soaring, the next step begins with you and your attitude. The one thing that we have total control of in any situation is our attitude. You may not know that I ran for national FFA office twice. For more than six years I had visualized my name being announced at the 70th National FFA Convention as a newly elected member of the national FFA officer team. I knew what the goose bumps would feel like. I had visions of myself running up on stage congratulating my new teammates. When my name was not called on that Saturday afternoon, I had about ten minutes until the end of that session when I would begin to see all the people who had supported me that fall. In those ten minutes, I thought about having a pity party for myself when I saw my supporters. I

thought the committee had made a mistake - a big mistake. I was angry, I was sad and I was upset. But in those same ten minutes, I sat there with six empty seats around me and thought, "Listen to yourself. I can act how most people would expect me to act. I can be angry and upset and drag others down with me, or I can pull myself together and focus on FFA's six new leaders." I focused on the growing experience, and even focused on where I wanted to be in the future. Even in our most challenging times, no matter what the situation is, we have control over our attitudes. When we are around negative people, our attitudes begin to become negative. Our talk becomes negative. And soon, our actions become negative. And before we know it, we're just like everyone else. It is just not worth it. Those type of average people that can drag us down are, in my mind, people who are too lazy to take control of their attitudes and make the most of the situation. People who live above the level of mediocrity have learned to control their attitudes.

Now there are going to be times when you visualize yourself flying and you have total control of your attitude, but the hard knocks of life are beating down your front door. That's when you focus on yourself and your faith. Not only do I mean faith in a power from up above, but I mean faith in ourselves and faith in others. We can choose to live a life of fear or a life of faith. We cannot have both. We can fear that our friends might break their promises. We can fear the food in the school cafeteria. We can fear that we might not go to college, or we can have faith that everything will fall into place and it will all work out. Last June I received a phone call from my parents concerning my grandmother. She had been diagnosed with cancer. She had lived by herself for thirty years and this was to be the biggest and last challenge she would face. No matter how sick she got, no matter how hard it was for my mom and our family, Grandma Ellen had faith that when she passed on she would be in a better place.

She had faith in her family that we would make it through the difficult times. She had simple faith. Cancer may have taken my grandmother's life, but it didn't take a spirit and a love of a family, because we had faith. People who live a life of faith are not caught up in mediocre madness.

Making visions reality, controlling our attitudes, and living a life of faith begins with you. Many people can support and help us along the way, but it is up to our individual commitment to soar like an eagle and not get caught up in mediocre madness.

Making visions reality, controlling our attitudes, and living a life of faith begins with you. Many people can support and help us along the way, but it is up to our individual commitment to soar like an eagle and not get caught up in mediocre madness.

To try to sum up this entire year with one retiring address, well, it would be a little crazy, but I did write a few words that I would like to share with you.

*Countless hours away from home,
This year was all of ours, not just
my own.*

*Conventions, conferences, and flights,
Throughout this year, I have seen the
sights. Many were big and fancy, you
see, From Vice President Gore, to the
Japanese Sea.*

*But it's the little things I have liked so
much, Like the promise of hope and
the human touch. They were e-mails
from members, friends and family, too.
You all made this year a success and
for that, I thank you.*

*You see, it was these little things that
have kept me going, Like your good
attitudes that kept you growing.*

*A little thing and a simple thing I have
enjoyed so much Have been the
sunsets. They are the mark of God's
great touch. They were in Florida,
Oregon, and Oklahoma, too. They
were the perfect ending to spending a
day with one of you.*

*Today, another sun sets for me, But
that's ok, the good Lord has made
plans, you see. Just remember, in our
lives it is so easy to be mediocre.
But with a little faith, attitude, and
vision, you can be like that eagle and
soar.*

*A chapter is almost complete in this
book of my own,
Mom, Dad, and K-State friends, it's
time—I'm coming home.*

Every time the sun sets, another day ends. But a new one is just around the corner. It's up to you to make the most of that day. As you leave this convention, decide what kind of attitude you're going to have. Will you settle for mediocrity? Or will you expand your vision and rely on your faith? FFA members, I challenge you to let the sun set on mediocre madness. Only then can you truly spread your wings and soar.

what matters most

Abby Dougherty, National FFA Secretary
72nd National FFA Convention
Second Convention Session

Let's see, I got this e-mail from Patrick in Mississippi and he says what matters most to him is, "The people who instilled in me the values and morals that I hold so dear to my heart." Dusti from Arizona says, "What matters most to me is a friend who will stay by me to the end."

According to Matt from Illinois, "My family is what matters most." What matters most to Jamie from Idaho is "family and friends who build me up." Kelly from Oklahoma e-mailed that what mattered most to him is "trust in God." And Derin from Wisconsin says that what matters most to her "is that I can and do believe in myself."

But how do I reply to the question, what matters most?

I have always loved the verse from 1 Corinthians 13:13 which is about giving others faith, hope and love. Those three things will remain, hold true and allow you to help others and yourself achieve success. It is important to me to have faith in yourself, encourage others with hope, and live a life of love—it can be one of the most remarkable things you do.

In third grade I became very interested in space and astronauts. In fact, I became so interested that when I finished my work in class I would go to the learning lab and do reports on planets. I wanted to be an astronaut so badly. I wanted to be the first person to walk on Jupiter! So you can imagine my disappointment when I found out that Jupiter is a gaseous planet and no one will ever be able to set foot there. But more than being an astronaut, I wanted to be a great person and that people would write about in the history books. Then other third graders could learn about my adventures. So what mattered most to me in third grade was becoming a famous astronaut like Neil Armstrong.

Neil Armstrong was the first to take steps on the moon. Our generation grew up knowing that man had set foot on moon. It didn't seem like such a big deal because so many people had done it. But for our parents and grandparents, this was beyond their wildest imagination. In 1969, millions of Americans put their faith and belief in Neil Armstrong, as he did what many believed to be the impossible. I cannot imagine the faith Neil Armstrong must have had in himself to take such a risk.

To me having faith means believing in yourself, having confidence in your abilities and knowing you can accomplish your goals. It can be one of the toughest things you'll ever have to do.

As a little child, I thought that what mattered most was a famous astronaut, a pioneer or even a country music star. With my involvement in the FFA, I found out that having a title after my name or winning a contest really aren't what matters.

When I was in eighth grade I entered the state piano competition. I went in and played my piece, Clementi's Opus No. 36 movements one, two and three. I received a perfect score and attained a Division I rating. I was so pumped that I decided to move up to a more advanced level next year. I picked out the song Fantasy in D Minor by Mozart. This was one of the most difficult pieces I had ever played. It had difficult rhythms and runs, so I practiced and practiced. At the competition I had faith that I could play my piece. I played my heart out for the judge. It was the best I had ever played. I anxiously waited outside for my results. When I found out I had received a Division II rating, I was crushed! I read through all of the judge's comments and he did not write one positive comment. I was so heartbroken. I sat outside the room and cried. After that competition I totally lost interest in playing the piano and I stopped taking lessons. I chose to

listen to one person's remarks on only one song. I lost faith in my piano skills and I lost faith in myself.

I learned from my experience that what matters most to me is not listening to what others say, but listening to my heart. It's only natural to remember the hurtful things that people say about us, but we truly become successful when we rise above that and put faith in ourselves.

What does faith mean to you? It means giving oral reasons in a career development event, even though you dread it. It means running for a chapter or regional office, or organizing a community activity. It all comes down to having faith in yourself and faith in a higher power.

When you have faith in yourself, you encourage others and give them hope.

When I was in fourth grade, we studied Indiana and American history. I learned all about the pioneers settling in my home state. We then moved on to learning about the Oregon Trail and I became fascinated by the pioneers.

I wanted to be a pioneer! I would go out to the field and pick some ears of corn and crush it into corn dust to make corn bread. I thought that they had so many exciting adventures.

But then I learned that they traveled in freezing cold, many times went without food and they had to sleep under the wagon, no matter if it rained or snowed. I then decided that maybe being a pioneer wasn't all it was cracked up to be. I was still amazed by the pioneers' story of everlasting hope. To leave your home and travel west to an unknown land would require having hope that stands the test of time. Many of them went hungry, cold and had to fight off illness. Families were down to nothing but hope—it kept their pioneering spirit alive.

retiring address

To encourage and support someone in achieving their goals is to give them hope.

While I was in Hawaii for their state FFA convention I witnessed hope! Mahina, Jason and Shannon are three state officers I met there. They took me to a waterfall so we could go swimming. Over by the waterfall, there was a rock—a really big and slippery rock! Shannon tried to climb to the top of the rock several times but couldn't quite make it because of the tremendous upper body strength it required. Even when Mahina tried to help her, it still proved to be too difficult. Shannon was getting tired and discouraged but Mahina kept encouraging her. After several attempts Mahina got Shannon to the top of that rock. It was Mahina's belief in Shannon that gave her the hope to continue.

As I watched Shannon and Mahina I realized how important supporters are! We need people to encourage us. Sometimes they are the ones who make us stick with our goals and dreams.

To give hope to others can be very positive and powerful. Let others in your chapter and school, know that you believe in them by the little things you do. Give them a good-luck card before they compete in the creed speaking contest. Give someone more responsibility for chapter activities, or simply give a little hope. I can promise you will be surprised by what happens. More people will achieve greater success! What matters most to me is providing hope for others to help them succeed.

When we give others hope, it let's them know that you care about them. But more importantly you are living a life full of love.

"Faith, hope and love will remain but the greatest of these is love." I love that verse from 1 Corinthians. That leads me to the question, "How do

we define love?" When I think of what love might look like, I think of the people in my life—family and friends. Living a life of love means taking care of the relationships with your family and friends.

Growing up, my parents and sisters taught me many lessons. I may not specifically remember the time Mom



taught me how to make my bed or when Dad taught me how to fish. It was all of those little lessons that instilled in me the values that I have today. It's the little moments with our family members that make us who we are.

One of those moments happened every Saturday night as my sisters and I tuned in to watch Barbara Mandrell and The Mandrell Sisters. It was pretty convenient because there were three Mandrells and there just so happened to be three of us.

We couldn't resist pretending to be the Mandrell Sisters. My oldest sister Jill was Barbara, my sister Erin was Louise and I was Irlene. We would sing along and pretend to be country

music stars. There was no end to the talent in our family.

The reason we liked the Mandrell Show so much was because they were all sisters and shared their love for each other every Saturday night as they played and sang together. I understand that love and close relationship because that's what we share in our family. The singing may not have been the same, but the closeness sure was.

The lesson that I may have learned the most this year, is just how important relationships with families and friends are. These special people in my life have given me the love I needed to be who am I today.

What matters the very most to me is living a life of love.

We should continue to share love with everyone we meet. You can give love to others by helping a friend with a tough homework assignment, talking to the new student in school, or simply encouraging someone to join FFA.

As a little child, I thought that what mattered most was being a famous astronaut, a pioneer or even a country music star. With my involvement in the FFA, I found out that having a title after my name or winning a contest really aren't what matters.

Dear FFA members,

Thank you for the best year of my life! I have discovered this year that what matters most to me is having FAITH in myself, giving HOPE to others and living a life of LOVE. What matters most to you? I encourage you to discover your own answer. Once you do, then pursue those things passionately.

Thanks again!

I believe in you,
Abby :)

I guess I can't pick just one thing that matters the most to me. But I know when you have faith in yourself, when you encourage others with hope, and when you live a life of love that's when life begins to matter.

Message sent!

national chapter awards

Sponsored by Cargill and the National FFA Foundation General Fund

The National Chapter Award is designed to recognize excellence in chapter activities and programs. This year, 7,268 chapters vied for a National Chapter Award. Areas include developing student leaders, working together to form strong chapters and community development programs.

The top three chapters were selected as Models of Innovation in student, chapter and community development. Students from each chapter were congratulated on stage and presented with a plaque.

NATIONAL WINNER STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

Freeman FFA Chapter, Nebraska

Freeman FFA members participated in a wide variety of projects and events to enhance student development and increase involvement in their new chapter. Members produced and presented agricultural television, newspaper and radio spots. The chapter conducted a Tobacco Free Program demonstrating the damage of tobacco use and the benefits of a healthy lifestyle without tobacco. They also utilized a swine cooperative to enable non-rural members the opportunity to try hands-on animal care.

NATIONAL WINNER CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT

Seneca FFA Chapter, Illinois

The innovative members of the Seneca FFA Chapter coordinated an Agriculture Progress Show for the community to improve public awareness of agricultural education and the FFA. They also hosted the 11th Annual Seneca FFA Toy Show, Sale and Auction, which attracted more than 800 guests. The chapter profited more than \$2,500 from the food stand, table rentals and auction commission. In cooperation with their FFA Alumni affiliate, the members added on to their land lab building. The building will house a sale ring, storage area, workshop, restrooms, kitchen and an office costing more than \$40,000.

NATIONAL WINNER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Garretson FFA Chapter, South Dakota

The Garretson FFA members improved lives of senior citizens in their hometown by constructing hanging plant boxes and filling them with home grown flowers for the assisted living apartments. Their "Safety is Elementary" program provided the opportunity for members to present programs on safety to elementary students with topics ranging from safety on the farm to riding the bus. This division recognized Garretson FFA in their efforts to improve the community's financial health, preserve natural resources, promote citizenship and increase agricultural awareness.

THREE STAR

ALABAMA: Eufaula
ARIZONA: Chino Valley, Peoria
CALIFORNIA: Ripon
COLORADO: Arickaree, McClave
GEORGIA: Gilmer County, Jackson County
IDAHO: Cambridge, Kuna
ILLINOIS: Amboy, Cissna Park, Franklin Center, Mount Vernon, Olney, Seneca, Valmeyer
INDIANA: Adams Central, Benton Central, Carroll, Clinton Central, Delphi, Shenandoah, Switzerland County, Western Boone, Woodlan
IOWA: Creston, Harlan, St. Ansgar
KENTUCKY: Apollo, Spencer Co
MAINE: Presque Isle
MARYLAND: Caroline, Easton
MICHIGAN: Perry
MINNESOTA: Benson, Stillwater
MISSOURI: Aurora, Carthage, Eldorado Springs, Marionville, Monroe City R-1, North Shelby, Salisbury, Sweet Springs, Troy, Union
MISSISSIPPI: Carthage
NEBRASKA: Freeman, Norris, Schuyler, Superior, Sutton, Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca
NEVADA: Ruby Mountain, Silver Sage
NEW MEXICO: Alamogordo
NORTH CAROLINA: Piedmont, South Rowan
NORTH DAKOTA: Rugby
OHIO: Miami Trace
PENNSYLVANIA: Conococheague/James Buchanon, Grassland, Spud Growers, West Snyder
SOUTH CAROLINA: Aiken, Latta, Loris
SOUTH DAKOTA: Garretson, McCook Central, West Central
TENNESSEE: Bradley Central
TEXAS: Bryan, Katy, Mansfield, Mission, Nacogdoches, Weimar
VIRGINIA: Central, James Wood, Laurel Park, Park View Sr
WASHINGTON: Monroe, Yelm
WISCONSIN: Bloomer, Denmark, Pulaski, Spencer, Waupaca, Weyauwega-Fremont

TWO STAR

ARIZONA: Antelope, Gilbert
ARKANSAS: Valley Springs
CALIFORNIA: Arroyo Grande, Del Norte, Fallbrook, Firebaugh, Fontana, Fresno-Central, La Puente Valley Rop, Norco, Quartz Hill
COLORADO: Eaton, Heohne, Pueblo County, Springfield, Valley, Woodlin
CONNECTICUT: Housatonic Valley
DELAWARE: Smyrna, Sussex Central
FLORIDA: Armwood, Clewiston, Dade City Senior, Durant Senior, East Bay Senior, Ft. White Middle, Lafayette Senior, New Smyrna Beach MS, North Marion, Okeechobee Brahman, Orlando Colonial, Pine Ridge, Ponce de Leon, Sebring Senior Suwannee Senior
GEORGIA: Bacon County, Colquitt County, Irwin, Jeff Davis, Murray County
IDAHO: Meridian
ILLINOIS: Ashton, Blue Ridge, Bushnell-Prairie City, Chicago Ag Science, Cisne, Clinton, Eldorado, Greenville, Leroy, Manteno, Morrisonville, Mount Carroll, Newark, Paxton-Buckley-Loda, Payson, Serena, Somonauk-Leland, Tri Valley Comm, Warsaw, Webber
INDIANA: Brownstown Central, Carroll at Flora, Monroe Central, North Harrison, North Posey, Oak Hill, Prairie Heights, South Adams, STAR Academy
IOWA: Algona, Bison, Charles City, G & G, Maquoketa Valley, Marengo, Monticello, Mount Ayr., Osceola, Red Oak, Sibley-Ocheyedan, Vinton, Wapsie Valley, West Marshall
KANSAS: Abilene, Arkansas City, Atwood, Chapman, Highland, Hill City, Holton, Marysville, Mission Valley
KENTUCKY: Central Hardin, Jessamine County, Meade County, Scott County

TWO STAR continued

LOUISIANA: Hathaway, Lacassine, Midland, North Central High, Oak Grove, Welsh

MICHIGAN: Byron, Corunna, Marshall, Montague, Unionville-Sebewaing

MINNESOTA: Battle Lake, Blue Earth, Forest Lake, Menahga, New Ulm, Nicollet, Perham, Staples/Motley, Upsala, USC, Watertown-Mayer, Zumbrota-Mazeppa

MISSOURI: Cameron, Chillicothe, Clopton, Eldon, Gallatin, Glasgow, Logan - Rogersville, Memphis, Milan, Salem, Sarcoxie

MONTANA: Carter County, Cascade, Conrad, Flathead, Park, Shields Valley

NEBRASKA: Blue Hill, Centura, Fullerton, Northwest, Pender, Tri County, Verdigre

NEW JERSEY: Allentown, Penns Grove, Woodstown

NEW MEXICO: Animas, Artesia, Aztec, Goddard, Magdalena, Mesa Vista

NEW YORK: Cuba-Rushford

NORTH CAROLINA: Clinton, West Carteret

NORTH DAKOTA: Divide County, Garrison, Hillsboro, Lisbon, Turtle Lake Mercer

OHIO: Anna, Blanchester, Bowling Green, East Clinton, Hardin Northern, Indian Valley, London, Margaretta, National Trail, New Bremen, Preble Shawnee, River Valley, Talawanda, Versailles

OKLAHOMA: Burlington, Chickasha, Durant, El Reno, Elgin, Fairview, Glencoe, Grandfield, Morris, Mulhall - Orlando, Pawnee, Tuttle, Waynoka

OREGON: Canby, Central, Perrydale

PENNSYLVANIA: Brothersvalley, Greenwood,

Lancaster - Mennonite, Lenape AVTS, Manor, Middleburg, Selinsgrove, Twin Valley

SOUTH CAROLINA: Central, Golden Strip, Wagener - Salley

SOUTH DAKOTA: Elkton, Milbank

TENNESSEE: Anderson County, Cherokee, Dyersburg, East Robertson, Lexington, McMinn County, Munford, Portland, Riverside

TEXAS: Calallen, Central, Clear Lake, Columbus, Klein Forest, Klein Oak, Rockdale, Snyder

UTAH: Fremont, Morgan

VIRGINIA: Dinwiddie, Louisa, Signal Knob Middle, Stonewall, Strasburg, Turner Ashby

WASHINGTON: Cathlamet, Elma, Evergreen, Mabton, Mountain View, Onalaska, Ritzville, Snohomish, Wenatchee, White River, Willapa Valley, Winlock, Zillah

WEST VIRGINIA: Ravenswood, Ripley, Roane County, St Marys, Wirt County

WISCONSIN: Barron, Big Foot, Clear Lake, Granton, Loyal, Marshfield, Stevens Point, Verona

WYOMING: Paintrock

ONE STAR

ALABAMA: Enterprise, Geraldine

ARKANSAS: Melbourne, Mountain Horne Jr., Paris, Prairie Grove

CALIFORNIA: Eureka, Righetti

COLORADO: Platte Valley

FLORIDA: Columbia, West Orange

GEORGIA: Cook, Miller County, Perry

ILLINOIS: Indiana Creek, Monticello

IOWA: Agri-Power, Cascade, Edgewood, Hawkeye, Mid-Prairie, North Fayette

Dr. Larry Case, national FFA advisor, extends a handshake and congratulations to a top FFA chapter in the National Chapter Award program.



KANSAS: Buhler, Inman, Johnson County, Norton, Sabetha, Solomon, South Barber
KENTUCKY: Breckinridge, Fulon, McLean Co., Mercer, Ohio Co., Oldham Co., Pendleton Co., Webster Co.

LOUISIANA: Beau Chene

MASSACHUSETTES: Essex

MINNESOTA: Brainerd, Montevideo, Randolph, Tracy, Willmar

MISSISSIPPI: Neshoba Central, Nettleton

MISSOURI: Appleton City, Clark County R-I, Crane, East Newton, Owensville

MONTANA: Peerless

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Region #9

NORTH DAKOTA: Maddock, AS Gibbons

OHIO: Ansonia, Canal Winchester, Cardington, Elmwood, Greenville, Lancaster, Lynchburg Clay, Marysville, Minster, Pettisville, River View, Riverdale, Tri-Village, Twin Valley South, Wellington, West Muskingum, Wilmington

OKLAHOMA: Carter, Cleveland, Fletcher, Konawa, Lookeba-Sickles, Medford, Mooreland, Ninnekah, Roland, Ryan, Verden, Woodland

PENNSYLVANIA: Cowanesque, Cumberland Valley

SOUTH DAKOTA: Harrisburg,

TENNESSEE: Gordonsville, Johnson County, North Knox, Peabody, Powell Valley

TEXAS: Banquete, Brenham, Brownsboro, Burleson, Clear Brook, Clear Creek, Cleburne, Coldspring, Cotulla, Crawford, Del Valle, Devine, East Chambers, Fairfield, Garland, Hampshire-Fannett, Humble, Jacksboro, Klein, Lake Travis, Lewisville, McCullough, McGregor, McKinney, Mexia, Navasota, New Caney, Northwest, Orange Grove, Pilot Point, Plano East Senior High, Pleasanton, Quanah, Royal High School, Ryan, Saltillo, Sealy, Sinton, Spring, Tidehaven, Tom Bean, Tomball, Troup, Troy

UTAH: Bear River, Emery Sr., Grantsville, South Summit

VERMONT: Central Vermont

VIRGINIA: Drewry Mason Middle, Ft. Defiance, Nelson Senior, Northumberland, Sherando, Stuarts Draft, Walter S. Newman

WASHINGTON: Grandview, Granger, Kettle Falls

WEST VIRGINIA: Hampshire

WISCONSIN: Black Hawk-South Wayne, Elkhorn, Evansville, Fort Atkinson, Lodi, Mishicot, Montello, New Holstein, Prairie Farm, Stratford, Waupun, Wonewoc-Center

WYOMING: Cheyenne, Pine Bluffs, Wind River,

national chapter awards

100% states

States with increases in FFA membership include:

Alaska
Arizona
Arkansas
California
Delaware
Georgia
Indiana
Louisiana
Massachusetts
Montana
Nebraska
Nevada
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Oregon
Tennessee
Utah
West Virginia
Wyoming

Four states were recognized for having 100% FFA membership: California, North Dakota, Ohio and Oklahoma. This means that every chapter in each of these states has all their students who are enrolled in agricultural education as FFA members.

A successful program will have quality classroom and laboratory instruction, a leadership and recognition component (FFA) and a career preparation segment (supervised agricultural experience). These characteristics make agricultural education stand out from other programs because of the intracurricular nature of the programs and activities offered to students. Students benefit from the instruction they receive while they apply what they have learned to their career choice.

There are hundreds of other chapters in the country who have 100% FFA membership, we pay tribute to you and commend you on a superior job of preparing our youth for tomorrow.



A representative from the Ohio association happily accepts recognition for achieving 100-percent membership, as an Oklahoma representative looks on.



Individuals providing exemplary service to the National FFA Organization received VIP Citations at the 72nd National FFA Convention, Oct. 27-30, including Dr. Clifton Braker of West Fork, AR; Ted Gregg of Chico, CA; A. Charles Fischer of Carmel, IN; Duane Acker of Atlantic, IA; Leon Schumacher of Columbia, MO; John W. Watkins of Marion, OH; Dr. Rosco Vaughn of Lorton, VA; Ken Milholland of Tenino, WA; Gov. Cecil H. Underwood of Charleston, WV; and Merle Bodmer of Racine, WI. In appreciation of their overwhelming generosity and support, these ten individuals were honored with VIP citations.

Duane Acker of Atlantic, IA, has been responsible for food and agriculture programs for various U.S. agencies, including the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) International Cooperation and Development Office, the Foreign Agriculture Service and the U.S. Agency for International Development. Acker served as assistant Secretary for Science and Education at USDA until his retirement in 1993.

Dr. Leon Schumacher, associate professor of agriculture at the University of Missouri in Columbia, Mo., served as both a committee member and superintendent for the national agricultural mechanics career development event (CDE). In both of these roles, he has been highly instrumental in establishing skill areas and directing team activity.

Dr. Clifton Braker, a professor at University of Arkansas in West Fork, Ark., served as associate superintendent for the national agricultural mechanics career development event (CDE) for three years prior to his retirement. He had previously served for several years as a judge or contest official for the event, and was highly instrumental in eliciting university students to assist with the CDE.

Merle Bodmer of Waterford, WI, has been active in the national agricultural mechanics career development event (CDE) for the past 12 years, working through the Case Corporation to supply equipment for the event. He served as a consultant in the development of skill activities and has taken an active role in CDE planning.

John W. Watkins of Prospect, OH, served in various agricultural capacities for 18 years, directing the Ohio FFA state judging contests. Watkins currently serves as the Marion County Commissioner, where he chairs the Agriculture and Rural Affairs committee. He retired from his former position as Ohio Agricultural Education Supervisor in 1985.

Ted Gregg of Chico, CA, is a former agricultural consultant and regional supervisor for the California Department of Education in Sacramento. He served as statewide Agricultural Incentive Grant coordinator and writer of the CDE "Blueprint for Excellence." Under Gregg's leadership, California's Superior Region produced 130 American Farmers, 1,910 State Farmers, 92 state proficiency winners, 172 state championship teams and 26 state officers.

A. Charles Fischer of Carmel, IN, president and CEO of Dow AgroSciences, has been a National FFA Executive Sponsor for six years and recently served as chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board. He successfully directed the efforts to raise \$7.2 million for the annual campaign and \$5.2 million for the capital campaign. He has also served on the FFA Board of Trustees.

Dr. Rosco Vaughn of Lorton, VA served as state supervisor for 20 years and executive director for the National Council for Agricultural Education for the past four years. Previously the state supervisor for New Mexico, Dr. Vaughn helped develop core competencies and a strategic plan for agricultural education while serving as FFA state advisor and chief administrative officer for the New Mexico FFA Association.

Ken Milholland of Tenino, WA, taught agricultural education for more than 30 years before retiring. During his tenure, Milholland worked to encourage participation in poultry science and production throughout the state of Washington. He served as state FFA contest coordinator for 11 years and superintendent for the national prepared public speaking career development event (CDE) for four years.

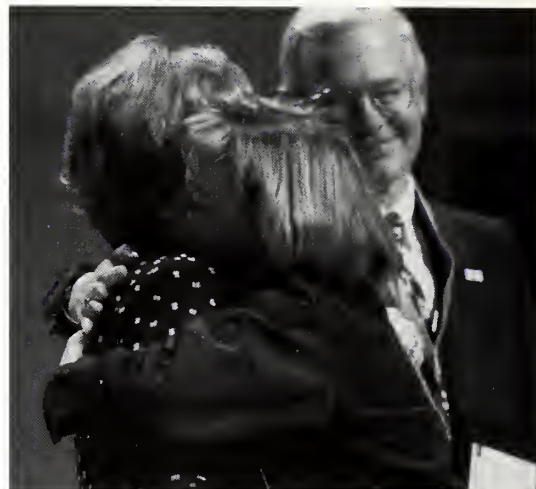
Gov. Cecil H. Underwood of Charleston, WV, is currently serving his second gubernatorial term. As a strong supporter of FFA and agricultural education, Underwood recently signed into law legislation mandating science credit for agriculture classes. A former FFA member, Underwood has served as chairman of the West Virginia State Advisory Council for Vocational Education.

honorary FFA degrees - FFA supporters

Honorary American FFA Degree recipients exemplify the true meaning of the FFA and its mission with their own way of expressing premier leadership, personal growth and career success. Recipients of this distinguished degree remind members how influential leaders are and the importance of supporting a worthy cause.

Recipients of this degree range from agricultural teachers who devote countless hours helping students to school and government officials who offer their expertise for the good of the organization and the people involved.

The National FFA Organization Honorary American FFA Degree is presented to such individuals to thank them for their continued support of the FFA and agricultural education. During the Friday morning session these honored individuals received their plaques and esteemed appreciation from the national officers.



The Honorary FFA Degree program is designed to honor individuals who have rendered outstanding service to FFA. National FFA President, Lisa Ahrens, presents her parents with the degree.

honorary FFA degrees

ARIZONA: Kenneth A. Gregersen, Gold Canyon
ARKANSAS: Barry Farris, Beebe
CALIFORNIA: Don Borges, Modesto; Lee Bucknell, Modesto; Alan Cover, Modesto; Robert A. Flores, San Luis Obispo; Joseph Martinez, Winters; Phil Nelson, Walnut Creek
DELAWARE: John F. Tarburton, Dover; Sharon Morgan, Easton
FLORIDA: Foster Dickard, Cantonment; Gary Lee, Sebring; Earl J. Lennard, Tampa; Joseph E. Stephens, Tallahassee
GEORGIA: Mary J. Jamieson, Atlanta; Ann R. Purcell, Atlanta; Henry L. Reaves, Atlanta; Roy A. Stowe, Jefferson
IDAHO: Maynard A. Fosberg, Moscow; Donna M. Hyatt, Payette

ILLINOIS: William B. Johnson, Joliet; Tom Reedy, DeKalb; Richard Ryan, DeKalb; Perry Schneider, Lincoln; Roland A. Thompson, Hinckley; Robert M. Van Patten, Edwardsville; Jim Williams, Bloomington
INDIANA: Jennifer Conway, Indianapolis; Vicki Settle, Indianapolis; Sue Springirth, Indianapolis
KENTUCKY: Wayford B. Metzger, Frankfort; Ron Scott, Louisville; David Snowden, Louisville; Harold Workman, Louisville
MARYLAND: Robert Valentine, Tunkhannock
MICHIGAN: Harrison Gardner, East Lansing; H. Paul Roberts, East Lansing; Jim Schrandt, Jackson
MINNESOTA: Tim Clause, Bloomington;

Richard O. Johnson, Henning; Sung Kim, St. Paul; Bob Moraczweski, Minneapolis; Guy R. Shoemaker, Minneapolis; Ed Shonsey, Golden Valley; Mark E. Stenzel, St. Paul
MISSOURI: David L. Abbott, Chesterfield; Frederic E. Schrodt, Kansas City
NEVADA: Bob Butler, Reno;
NEW JERSEY: Robert W. Bender, Penns Grove; Julian J. Garcia, Iselin; Howard Minigh, Parsippany; Christine T. Whitman, Trenton
NEW MEXICO: Murry D. Avery, Alamogordo; Robert M. Torres, Las Cruces
NORTH CAROLINA: Graham Boyd, Raleigh; Barry Croom, Raleigh; Robert H. Usry, Raleigh
OHIO: Joe Haines, Columbus; Alice K. Hite, Columbus; Bernadette Siekman, Delaware;

OKLAHOMA: Kendall Brashears, Fairview; David Cantrell, Stillwater; Ron Hays, Oklahoma City
PENNSYLVANIA: Michael G. Schwarz, Westfield
RHODE ISLAND: Patricia Millar, West Kingston
SOUTH CAROLINA: Benjie Rhoad, Columbia; Charles R. Sharpe, Columbia
TEXAS: Tommy J. Davidson, Gainesville; Joe Muller, Huntsville; Mike Nathanson, Houston; Ben Shaw, Austin; Lon Shell, San Marcos; Herman Wilson, Houston
VIRGINIA: Jerry H. Gass, Richmond; Jay Jackman, Alexandria; Paul Stapleton, Richmond
WEST VIRGINIA: Benny Renick, South Charleston
WISCONSIN: James L. Irwin, Racine; Wallace H. Jerome, Barron
WYOMING: Dick G. Hiser, Saratoga

honorary american FFA degree - agriculture teacher



Overwhelmed by the moment, Jennifer Conway planted a big kiss on national officer James Garner after she received her Honorary American FFA Degree.

ALABAMA: Gregory D. Hamner, Florence; Mike Hogan, Troy; Joe F. Snell, Arlton; Thomas Swaffield, McCalla

ARIZONA: Ray Gless, Mesa

ARKANSAS: Troy Buck, Amity

CALIFORNIA: Carl Arend, Yucaipa; Joel Briggs, Littlerock; Bob Crabtree, Campbell; Roger Dickson, Modesto; Ron Furtado, Livermore; Gary Hunt, La Habra; Melissa McBride, Indio; Hugh Mooney, Galt; Douglas Moss, Escondido; Robert Percy, Visalia; David Pritchard, El Centro; Carl Wright, Galt

COLORADO: Delbert R. Chase, McClave

IDAHO: Gary Abercrombie, Aberdeen

ILLINOIS: Mary Barnes, Barry

KENTUCKY: Johnnie W. Mathias, Henderson

MICHIGAN: Kenneth A. Bollinger, Adrian; Bob Stein, Standish

MINNESOTA: Tim G. Larson, Nicollet

MISSOURI: Rod Barr, Maryville; Paul D. Light, Thayer; George R. Shively, Sr., Ewiny; Martin F. Wagner, Sarcoux

NEBRASKA: Craig A. Frederick, Cairo; Lonnie Koepke, Broken Bow

NORTH CAROLINA: William I. Enzor, Jr., Cerro Gordo; Harvey E. Franklin, Marshall; Michael J. Holt, Asheville; Charles L. Michel, Marshall; Roger H. Teeple, Black Mountain

NORTH DAKOTA: Joel Lemer, Carrington

OHIO: Nathan W. McNeal, West Lafayette; John F. Poulson, Pettisville

OKLAHOMA: Alan G. Smith, Cushing

OREGON: William C. Rizer, Harrisburg

PENNSYLVANIA: Brian J. Campbell, New Oxford; Robert Leib, Mechanicsburg

RHODE ISLAND: David L. Lewis, North Scituate

SOUTH CAROLINA: Benjamin W. Hardee, Loris

TEXAS: Ray Briscoe, Three Rivers; Herbert R. Casey, Jr., Teague; Jack DeShazo, Aledo; Dennis Ellebracht, San Antonio; Tammy D. Glascock, Pilot Point; Paul A. Jaure, Beeville; Donnie Kiker, Anson; James Weston, Farmersville; Ron Whitson, Mansfield

UTAH: Nile D. Carlson, Clearfield; Allan R. Sulser, Heber City

VIRGINIA: Lemuel S. Massie, Arrington; Gary W. Thomas, Ringgold

WEST VIRGINIA: Carol W. Webb, Keyser

WISCONSIN: Troy Lobdell, Darlington; Mark L. Zimmerman, Spencer

WYOMING: Randy Epler, Yoder

honorary FFA degrees

parents of national officers parents of STAR finalists

California: John Garner and Janet Garner

Indiana: David and Gwendolyn Dougherty

Iowa: Donald and Marylou Ahrens

Kansas: Robert and Melva Armbruster

Ohio: Robert and Beverly Buxton

Puerto Rico: Ana Gonzalez

Star Farmer

Iowa: Jon and Carol Ann Jordahl

Kansas: Chuck and Debbie Springer

Minnesota: Larry and Sherry Baumgardt

North Dakota: Roger and Jeanette Kenner

Star in Agribusiness

Illinois: J.R. and Barb Harris

Indiana: Dennis and Susan Bailey

Oklahoma: Craig and Paula Hale

Texas: Donald and Marilyn Weber

retiring national FFA board of directors: trustees and consultants

Karen Hutchison
Ernie Gill
Jim Connors
Mike Cox
Cindy Fannon Vosler
Barry Anderson
Marc Beitia
William T. Boehm

outreach efforts

FFA international programs

Thanks to international programs, students from around the globe are able to enjoy the FFA experience. Highly structured programs for members ages 16 through 24 are offered through the EARTH Tour Seminar, Adventure New Zealand and the Australia Homestay Program as well as many other short-term programs. For older members ages 18 to 24, FFA offers longer-term internship experiences on agriculture operations, in other countries, internship experiences at United States Embassies for the Foreign Agricultural Service of USDA, or opportunities for a one-month experience at EARTH College in Costa Rica.

International awareness increased during convention at the career show's Global Village. Planned activities celebrated 50 years of FFA international programs, including an international dinner, an International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) luncheon for German students enrolled in American FFA, a Toyota teacher session and information program, ethnic dancers and activities like Origami, Japanese name writing and making pinatas.

For more information about FFA international programs, log on to <http://www.ffa.org/international> or call toll-free 1-888-332-7853.

PALS conference



The Partners in Active Learning Support program (PALS) is aimed at pairing FFA members with children in mentoring relationships. Workshops during the convention taught FFA members how to relate to their young friends.

Partners in Active Learning Support (PALS) is a mentoring program matching high school agriculture students with elementary youngsters who have special needs. Developed by the National FFA Organization, the program helps those involved to build trust in others and develop positive self-esteem. Through this program, high school and elementary students explore their interests in plants, animals and the world around them.

The PALS mission is to provide a total, dynamic education system that contributes to personal, academic and career development. The convention focused on mentoring and included FFA members working with more than 700 third-graders. The program was sponsored by the Fifth Third Bank of Kentucky, Electric Cooperatives and The Gheens Foundation, Inc. Kraft Foods also donated lunch to all participants of the PALS convention.

alumni



Going once, going twice, SOLD! This year's alumni auction raised \$95,000 for programs sponsored by the alumni association.



FFA alumni reminisced about past national conventions at their annual meeting at the 72nd National FFA convention.

national FFA alumni

The National FFA Alumni Association is an essential component to FFA members and their future. The National FFA Organization's continued success is attributed to the devotion and positive impact of alumni.

This year the alumni conducted their 27th convention encompassing business sessions and award presentations. Their main focus, however, are the live and silent auctions. Last year alumni raised nearly \$72,000 at the auction and this year the number topped \$95,000.

The alumni were extremely appreciative of the support from Scott County and the state of Kentucky. They welcomed the alumni and FFA members with a helping hand, making the move from Kansas City an easy transition.

This year's auction provided bidders with a vast selection of items, from a 2000 Chevy truck, to a round baler, a livestock trailer and even tickets to the National Finals Rodeo. If the fast-paced ways of the auctioneer were not attendees style, plenty of items were available at the silent auction.

The National FFA Alumni Association is composed of volunteers, including former FFA members, parents and others interested in supporting the FFA. Nationwide, about 45,000 supporters are FFA alumni members.

foundation sponsors

distinguished service citations

The Distinguished Service Citation was presented at the 72nd National FFA Convention, Oct. 28, to three companies and organizations providing outstanding service and opportunities to the National FFA Organization: Farm Progress Companies, Inc. of Carol Stream, IL; Dow AgroSciences of Indianapolis, IN; and The W.K. Kellogg Foundation of Battle Creek, MI.

For 44 years, Farm Progress has supported the National FFA Foundation, contributing not only financial support, but providing support necessary for its president and publisher, Allan R. Johnson, to serve as chairman of the National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board. The current publisher of the FFA magazine, *FFA New Horizons*, which is mailed directly to the more than 450,000 members, Farm Progress has played an integral part in the success of the magazine.

Through 44 years of service, Dow AgroSciences has guided agricultural education and FFA through transition years. In 1996, the company was heavily involved in recruiting the National FFA Center to Indianapolis, offering five acres of land at a reduced cost for its site. In addition, Dow AgroSciences continues as a five-star sponsor after investing \$1.3 million dollars in the National FFA Foundation.

The W.K. Kellogg Foundation has made several financial contributions to major agricultural education and FFA projects. The Foundation was the lead contributor to the Project PALS Program, made a contribution to Partners For a Safer Community and was the sponsoring institution for the major initiative Reinventing Agricultural Education (RAE) for the year 2020.



The FFA recognized sponsors for their faithful support of the national organization. Al Johnson, president and publisher of Farm Progress Companies and A. Charles Fischer, president and CEO of Dow AgroSciences, earned the Distinguished Service Citation.

1999 retiring sponsors' board

David L. Abbott: Retired President & CEO, Purina Mills, Inc.

John L. Killmer: Ph.D., Managing Director, Monsanto Company

John G. Middlebrook: Vice President & General Manager, Vehicle Brand Marketing, General Motors Corporation

Henry "Chic" Mohr: Director of Market Development, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc.

Robert Moraczewski: Senior Vice President & General Manager, Intertec Publishers, Agribusiness Division

Kenwood C. Nichols: Vice Chairman and Executive Officer, Champion International Corporation

Richard O. Ryan: Vice President, North American Markets, Monsanto Global Seed Group

Frederic E. Schrodtt: Retired Vice President, Transportation, Farmland Industries, Inc.

Guy R. Shoemaker: President, North American Flour Milling, Cargill

Monty R. Summa: Vice President, Crop Protection Products, Agro Distribution, LLC

Robert M. Van Patten: Retired President, IMC AgriBusiness Inc.

Herman T. Wilson, Jr.: President, Pioneer Equipment Co.

The National FFA Foundation set an all-time fundraising record in 1999 to support annual projects and programs for FFA and agricultural education. The announcement was made during the Thursday evening session that the FFA Foundation raised \$7,310,000.

1999 National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman William T. Boehm, said "the contributions of more than 1,300 sponsors are what make it all possible in the preparation of FFA's future leaders and maintaining our vital agricultural community."

Boehm introduced the 2000 National FFA Foundation Sponsors' Board Chairman-Elect R.W. "Bud" Porter, senior vice president, North American Marketing of Deere and Company. Porter announced the 2000 Foundation theme is, "Invest in Today's Generation."

15-25-35-50 year sponsors

foundation sponsors

executive council

1999 Chairman

William T. Boehm, Vice President - Logistics,
The Kroger Company

2000 Chairman - Elect

R.W. "Bud" Porter, Senior Vice President,
North American Agricultural Marketing,
Deere & Company

2001 Chairman - Elect

Paul J. Morel, Jr., Brand Strategy Manager, Ford
Division - Ford Motor Company

1998 Chairman

A. Charles Fischer, President & CEO,
Dow AgroSciences

2000 sponsors' board

James C. Borel: Vice President & General Manager, DuPont Agricultural Products

Gerald W. Brase: Senior Vice President, Merchandising & Marketing, Tractor
Supply Company

Joseph P. Burke: Director, Customer Business Development, The Coca-Cola Co.

Christopher M. Cashman: Senior Director of Product and Business
Development, Pfizer Animal Health

Curt Fankhauser: President & CEO, ffi Corporation

Max A. Fisher: Vice President, Public Relations and Communications,
Purina Mills, Inc.

Kenneth A. Gregersen: Industry Liaison, National Council for Agricultural
Education

Lawrence J. Gundrum: Senior Vice President, Operations, Kraft Foods, Inc.

Jerry Hardy: Assistant Vice President, Kansas City Service Region, Burlington
Northern Santa Fe Railroad

Michael N. Harreld: President & CEO, PNC Bank

Lynn O. Henderson: President & CEO, Doane Agricultural Services Co.

John R. Hill: Senior Vice President, Sales & Marketing, Lester Building Systems

Jerry Hillard: Vice President, Insurance Staff, Farmland Mutual
Insurance Company/A Nationwide Agribusiness Company

Stan Howell: Global Leader, Urban Pest Management and North America
Trade Area Leader, Dow AgroSciences

James L. Irwin: Vice President, N.A. Agricultural Equipment Sales,
Case Corporation

Phil Johnson: President, Colle & McVoy

Diane D. Knutson: Vice President, Agricultural Products - Marketing
Transportation, Union Pacific Railroad

James S. Ladlie: Ph.D., President & CEO, Agri-Growth, Inc.

Eric L. Moorehead, Ph.D.: Vice President, Technology,
Kellogg Brown & Root, Inc.

G. Kenneth Mosheneck: President and COO, Royster-Clark, Inc.

Dennis M. Plummer: Vice President, Global Marketing & Business Development,
Global Seed Group, Monsanto Co.

Douglas E. Punke: Vice President, Merchandising Manager, North American
Corn Milling, Cargill

Stanley A. Riemann: Executive Vice President and President, Crop Production
Division, Farmland Industries, Inc.

Bruce A. Scherr: President & CEO, Sparks Companies, Inc.

Darrell J. Smith: Vice President Agricultural Investments,
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co.

Diane E. Stadlen: Senior Vice President, CMF&Z

50 Year Sponsors

Lee Company, Shawnee Mission, KS
Gold Kist, Inc., Atlanta, GA

35 Year Sponsors

Associated Milk Producers, Inc., New Ulm, MN
Virginia Agribusiness Council, Richmond, VA
Welch's, Concord, MA

25 Year Sponsors

American Morgan Horse Institute, West Chester, PA
Calcot, Ltd., Bakersfield, CA
First National Bank in Philip, Philip, SD
First National Bank of Hutchinson, Hutchinson, KS
First State Bank of Fertile, Fertile, MN
Friday Foundation, Incorporated, New Richmond, WI
Ronald N. Goddard, Fayetteville, NY
Golden Harvest Seeds, Incorporated, Bloomington, IL
Enos B. Heisey, Lebanon, PA
Rollie M. Hendrickson, Darien, CT
ISK BioSciences Corporation, Mentor, OH
KenAG, Ashland, OH
Kristico, Incorporated, Mankato, MN
Glenn D. Luedke, Woodbridge, VA
Mordge Manufacturing, Incorporated, Moundridge, KS
David Phillipson, Sarasota, FL
Schneider - Valley Farms Dairy, Inc., Williamsport, PA
Wilbur L. Townsend, Auburn, NY

15 Year Sponsors

Don Armstrong, Okemos, MI
John Arneson, Stoughton, WI
Asgrow Seed - A division of the
Monsanto Company, Des Moines, IA
Behlen Manufacturing Co., Columbus, NE
Earle K. Borman, Jr., Naples, FL
Bunge Corporation, St. Louis, MO
Larry & Joy Case, Fredericksburg, VA
Chief Industries, Inc., Grand Island, NE
James H. Dunn, Yardley, PA
Virgil Eihusen Foundation, Grand Island, NE
The Ertl Company, Dyersville, IA
Evergreen Mills, Inc., Ada, OK
Gustafson LLC, Plano, TX
Nick D. Hein, Carmel, IN
W. Dale Hess, Fallston, MD
Indiana Farmers Mutual Insurance Group, Indianapolis, IN
J. Patrick Kaine, Austin, TX
Richard Katt, Lincoln, NE
Eugene C. Meyer, Fort Atkinson, WI
Rhône-Poulenc Animal Nutrition, Alpharetta, GA
Tractor Supply Company, Nashville, TN
Union Tools, Inc., Columbus, OH
USDA/Farm Service Agency, Washington, DC
Robert G. Wells, Austin, MN
WestWayne, Inc., Atlanta, GA
Donald W. Wittnam, Greeley, CO
WIX Filtration Products
Division of Dana Corporation, Gastonia, NC
World-Wide Sires, Inc., Visalia, CA



FFA members were allowed to fully experience the career show by taking an active part in company's displays.

career show

The traffic was pleasantly congested with thousands of FFA members, agricultural instructors and guests traveling through the largest Agricultural Career Show national convention has ever seen. This year's show set an all-time record with 349 exhibitors representing agribusiness firms, government and military agencies, agricultural corporations and other organizations from across the nation occupying 108,000 square feet of show space.

This year's convention welcomed 97 new exhibitors to the show. The career show also offers 78 university and college booths providing members valuable information on the benefits of their college. This year, 39 state associations set-up booths proudly displaying their state and what makes them unique from others through pictures, paraphernalia and other information.

hall of states

Alabama Association • Alaska Association
 Arizona Association • Arkansas Association
 California Association
 Colorado Association
 Connecticut Association
 Delaware Association • Hawaii Association
 Idaho Association • Illinois Association
 Indiana Association • Iowa Association
 Kansas Association • Kentucky Association
 Louisiana Association
 Maryland Association
 Massachusetts Association
 Michigan Association
 Mississippi Association
 Montana Association • Nebraska Association
 New Hampshire Association
 New Jersey Association
 New Mexico Association
 New York Association
 North Dakota Association
 Ohio Association • Oregon Association
 Pennsylvania Association
 Puerto Rico Association
 South Carolina Association
 South Dakota Association
 Tennessee Association • Texas Association
 Utah Association • Virginia Association
 Wisconsin Association
 Wyoming Association

career show

exhibitors

Abraham Baldwin Ag College
Acro Publishing
AGCO
AgEd Network
Agribusiness Career and Leadership Academy
Agricultural Consortium of Texas
Agricultural Resources & Communications
Agricultural Sciences & Natural Resources Consortium of Nebraska
AgriSolutions
AgroVenture
Agrotours Inc.
AlChem Industries
Alexandria Technical College
Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity
American Angus Association
American Association for Vocational Instructional Materials (AAVIM)
American Dairy Goat Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American International Charolais Association
American Morgan Horse Institute, Inc.
American National Cattlewomen, Inc.
American Paint Horse Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Sales Association
American Shorthorn Association
American Simmental Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
Animal Industry Foundation
Applied Technologies
Aquacenter, Inc.
Aquascape Design, Inc.
Aquatic Eco Systems
Archer Daniels Midland Co.
Auburn University
B & H Insurance
Balanced Living Company
Bayer Corporation, Agricultural Division
Bekaert Wire
Belgium Blue Breeders, Inc.
Black Hawk College
Brick Graphics by Gartex, Inc.
Briggs & Stratton Corporation
Buck Knives, Inc.
Burley Tobacco Growers
Carhart, Inc.
Carolina Biological Supply Company
CARQUEST Corporation
Case IH
Caterpillar
Caterpillar - Think Big
Cave City Tourist & Convention Center
CENEX Harvest States-Land O' Lakes
Ceres International Women's Fraternity
Chevrolet Motor Division
Chevron
Chicago Mercantile Exchange
Christian Kropf, Inc.
Clemson University
Colorado State University
Communicating for Agriculture Exchange Program
Cornell University
Crossman Airguns
Crosswind Llamas
DATA MATCH, Inc.
Delaware State University
Delmar Publishers, Inc.
DeWALT Power Tools
Direct Ag. Com
Diversified Fund Raisers; Bob's Fund Raising
Dodge
Dow AgroSciences
DTN (Data Transmission Network)
Dundee Citrus Growers Association
DuPont
Eastern Kentucky University
Environmental Care, Inc.
EnviroQuip
Equipment Manufacturers Institute
Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education
FCAE
Farm Works Software
farmbid.com
Farmers for Christ, International
FarmHouse Fraternity
Farmland Industries
FarmPage.com
Farnham Dudgeon Civic Center & Frankfort Tourism & Convention Commission
Fastlane Publications
Fellowship of Christian Farmers International
Firestone Agricultural Tire Company
Florida Fruit Association, Inc.
Food Distributors International
Food Marketing Institute
Ford Motor Company
GBC Customized Calendars
Georgia Boot/Durango Boot
Golf Course Superintendents Association of America
H & S Produce
Hawkeye Community College
Hendricksen Care of Tires
Highwired.Net

Hobar Publications/Finney Company
Hortocopia Inc.
Hummert International
Husqvarna
IMC Salt Co.
Institute of Food Technologists
Instructional Materials Lab—University of Missouri
Instructional Materials Service—Texas A&M University
Interstate Publishers, Inc.
Iowa FFA Foundation, Inc.
Iowa State University College of Agriculture
Iowa Western Livestock Judging Contest
Jefferson Technical College
John Deere
John Deere Credit
Johnson & Wales University
Justin Boot Company
Kansas State University
Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Kentucky Department of Travel
Kentucky Down Under
Kentucky Farm Bureau Insurance Companies
Kentucky Soybean Association
Kentucky State University
Kentucky Thoroughbred Association
Kentucky Turf Grass Council
Kentucky Wood Products
Kirkwood Community College
Kosair Charities
Kroger
L. C. Fund Raising, Inc.
LA-CO Industries
Lake City Community College
Lake Land Community College
Langdon Barber Groves, Inc.
Lester Building
Lettering Manufacturing
Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau
Lincoln Electric Company
Louisiana State University
Louisville Lincoln Tourism Region
Maple Grove Distributing, Inc.
Maple Leaf Farms
Mason County Fiscal Court
Michelin Agricultural Tires
Michigan State University
Middlesborough/Pineville/Bell County Tourism Commission
Miller Electric Mfg. Co.
Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS)
Mississippi State University
Missouri Valley College
Modesto Junior College
Monsanto Company
MoorMan's, Inc.
Morehead State University
Murray State University
NAPA Auto Parts
Nashville Auto-Diesel College
National AgrAbility Program
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants
National Antique Tractor Pullers Association
National Association of Agricultural Educators (NAAE)
National Association of Farm Broadcasters
National Bison Association
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Council for Agricultural Education
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National FFA Agri-Entrepreneurship Finalists
National FFA Agricultural Youth Safety Education
National FFA Agriscience Fair
National FFA Agriscience Student Award Program Displays
National FFA Alumni Association
National FFA Programs and Activities (Partners)
National FFA Programs and Activities (Student)
National FFA Programs and Activities (Teachers)
National High School Rodeo Association
National Livestock Ethics Council
National Pork Producers Council
National Rifle Association of America
National Shooting Sports Foundation
National Wild Turkey Federation
Nationwide
New Holland Credit Corporation
North American Limousin Foundation
North Carolina State University
Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College
Northwest Missouri State University
Northwestern College
Northwestern Ohio Tractor Pullers
Ohio Agricultural Technical Institute
Ohio Corn Marketing Program
Ohio Curriculum Materials Service
Ohio Extension Communication & Technology
Ohio Soybean Council
Oklahoma Curriculum & Instructional Materials Center
Oklahoma Panhandle State University
Oklahoma State University
Oklahoma Steel and Wire
Oregon State University
Oregon Trail Jerky
Oscar Mayer Foods
Papa John's International Inc.
Pennsylvania State University
Pennzoil Quaker State
Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.
Presto Products Company

Purdue University
Purina Mills, Inc.
Racing Partners
Ranger Boats
Rhône Poulenc Ag Company
Ritchie Industries, Inc.
Rose Acre Farms, Inc.
Schrader Cutlery
Sigma Alpha Sorority
Silver State International Rodeo, Inc.
Snap On Tools
Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters
Sooner Trailer
Southern Arkansas University
Southern Heritage Fundraising
Southern Illinois University at Carbondale
Southern Kentucky Vacations, Inc.
Southern States Cooperative
Southwest Missouri State University - Collegiate FFA
Spec Cast
Starlight Visitors Association
Stone Manufacturing & Supply Company
Stuppy Greenhouse Manufacturing Company
Sullivan Colleges System
SUNY Cobleskill
Superior Growers Supply
TDDD Professional Training Center
The American Phytopathological Society
The Campbell Group
The Davey Tree Expert Company
The Ertl Company
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
The Humane Society of the United States
The Ohio State University
The University of Arizona
Three Hills PRC A Rodeo, Inc.
Top Cut Showpig Sires
Tractor Supply Company
TruGreen LandCare
Tulsa Welding School
Tyson Foods, Inc.
U.S. Air Force Recruiting
U.S. Army Recruiting Command
U.S. Custom Harvesters, Inc.
U.S. Department of Education OVAE
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Marine Corps
U.S. Navy Recruiting Command
United Parcel Service (U.P.S.)
University of Alaska Fairbanks - SALRM
University of Arkansas
University of Arkansas Dept. of Crop, Soil & Environmental Sciences

career show

University of California - Davis
University of Delaware College of Agriculture & Natural Resources
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Illinois
University of Kentucky
University of Kentucky Distance Learning Programs
University of Minnesota—St. Paul
University of Missouri—Columbia
University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez Campus
University of Wisconsin—Madison
University of Wisconsin - Platteville
University of Wisconsin - River Falls
University of Wyoming
USDA ARS Grain Marketing and Production Research Center
USDA ARS - National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research
USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service
USDA Economic Research Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
USDA Forest Service
USDA Marketing and Regulatory Programs
USDA National Agricultural Library
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service /CENSUS
USDA National Animal Disease Center
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Office of Inspector General
USDA Risk Management Agency
USDA Rural Development
Utah State University
Vincennes University
Virginia Tech, College of Agriculture & Agricultural Education
Vita-Key Supplements
Walt Disney World Co.
Ward's Natural Science
Washington State University
Welsh Products, Inc.
Western Illinois University
Western Kentucky University
Winchester Ammunition-Olin Corporation
WIX Filters Products Division of Dana Corporation
Woman's Christian Temperance Union
Wrangler
Zeccraft Tech.

courtesy corps

"Living to serve" takes on a whole new meaning for students working on the courtesy corps. Health and safety concerns, podium removal and guest escorts – you name it and courtesy corps is there. These volunteers help to make national convention a smooth-running show. The pay to these outstanding individuals was nothing more than the sincere gratitude and thanks from the many members and guests they helped serve. National convention would not be the same without their help.

Sponsored by Kosair Children's Hospital and Norton Healthcare

From stuffing envelopes to moving boxes to distributing *FFA Today* newspapers, courtesy corps members made the convention a success by attending to the details.



Alabama: Billingsley, Eden Career Tech, Isabella, Leroy, Odenville, Slocomb, West End, Wetumpka
Arkansas: DeValls Bluff, Glen Rose, Oak
Arizona: Mesa, Mesquite, Millenium, Parker
California: FallBrook, La Sierra, Poway
Connecticut: Northwestern Regional
Florida: Armwood, Auburndale Sr., Bunnell Sr., Deland Sr., Durant, Lake Region, Malone, Miami Sr., New Smyrna Beach Sr., North Marion Sr., Northview, Redland Middle, Taylor Sr., Umatilla, Williston Sr.
Iowa: Anamosa, Dunkerton, Fox Valley, Iowa Falls-Alden, Iowa State University, Keota, Laurens - Marathon, Maquoketa, North Fayette, Parma
Illinois: Georgetown-Ridge Farm, Hillsboro, Liberty, Tri-Point, Windsor
Indiana: Adams Central, Carroll, Clinton Prairie, Crothersville, Eastbrook, Indian Creek, LakeLand, North Newton, Northeast

Dubois, Norwell, Prairie Heights, Scottsburg, South Ripley, Triton Central, Western Boone
Kansas: Johnson County
Kentucky: Apollo, Barren County, Boone County, Bracken County, Christian County, Edmonson County, Fleming County, Heath, Lincoln County, Nelson County, Spencer County, Taylor County, Walton-Verona, Washington County, Webster County, Western Hills, Wolfe County
Louisiana: Mt. Hermon
Michigan: New Lothrop
Minnesota: Sibley County East
Missouri: Aurora, Bloomfield, Chamois Morrison, Couch, Gallatin R-V, Grundy County, Hermann, Higginsville, Kansas City, Koshkonong, Lamar, Linn County R-I, Linn, Malta Bend R-V, Marion County, Nevada, Norborne, Odessa, Schuyler R-I, Tipton, Union, Walnut Grove, Wheatland
North Carolina: Crest, Southern Nash

North Dakota: Hillsboro, Killdeer, Powers Lake, Wm. A. Broyles

Nebraska:

Freeman, Hartington, Newman Grove, Waverly

New Hampshire: Seacoast School of Technology, Winnisquam

Ohio: Benjamin Logan, Buckeye Valley, Four County, Pickaway-Ross JVS, Ross, St. Henry, Talawanda, Vantage, Warren

Oklahoma: Aline-Cleo, Elk City, Fort Gibson, Grandfield, Jenks, Reydon, Sapulpa, Sentinel, Silo

Oregon: Perrydale

Pennsylvania: Cumberland Valley, West Snyder

Rhode Island: Narragansett, North Scituate

South Dakota: Alcester-Hudson, Harrisburg, McCook Central

Tennessee: Lincoln County, McNairy Central

Texas: A&M Consolidated, Aledo, Anderson, Athens, Banquete, Bellaire, Blackwell, Bland, Bowie, Bryan, Caney Creek, Canton, Canutillo, Cedar Hill, Cedar Park, Channelview, Chico,

Krum, Lewisville, Lubbock-Cooper, Madisonville, Mansfield, Marcus, McKinney, Clear Brook, Clear Lake, Columbus, Crandall, Crowley, Cypress Creek, DeSoto, Deweyville, Franklin, Glen Rose, Greenville, Groesbeck, Harrold, Hartley, Honey Grove, Huffman, Humble, Huntsville, Idalou, Iola, Iowa Park, Killeen/Ellison, Kirbyville, Memphis, Mexia, Miami, Morton, Needville, New Caney, Normangee, Northwest, Justin, Palestine, Pasadena, Pilot Point, Plano East, Princeton, Quanah, Rochelle, Rotan, Sam Rayburn, San Marcos, Sanger, Sealy, Snyder, Spring Branch, Stamford, The Woodlands-McCullough, Tom Bean, Troy, Weatherford, Weimar, Willis, Wilson
Virginia: Amelia County HS, Dinwiddie
Wisconsin: Alma Center-Lincoln, Elk Mound, Lodi, New Glarus, Oconto Falls, Pulaski, Sauk Prairie, Whitehall

business

The Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center was filled with delegates from each state as they worked on pending issues concerning the FFA. The group began sessions two days before convention actually began. They met for hours to draft proposals to be considered by the National FFA Organization board of directors.

Delegates proudly represented their state associations during business meetings. Parliamentary procedure skills were put to work and business was conducted.

The committee on Agricultural Education Trends recommended an alliance between agricultural education and industries to create an understanding by the general public. The Career Success Activities committee recommended the American FFA Degree contain a category for community service. The Membership, Recruitment and Participation committee recommended a national advertising campaign using billboards, the Internet and commercials.

At the close of business Saturday, delegates left Freedom Hall with a sense of accomplishment and purpose, knowing they helped make a difference in the future of FFA.

delegate sessions



Patriotism prevailed at the national FFA convention, students pledged their allegiance to the flag and county at the start of each session.

official delegates

official delegates

ALASKA: Matthew Wilson, Diamond; Amy Kenley, Palmer
ALABAMA: Lisa Jividen, Geraldine; Joshua Dozier, Marbury; Josh Johnson, Jacksonville; Jared Mitchell, Daleville; Cassidy Ellison, Robertsdale; Grace Smith, Billingsby; Alisha Turnbull, Lexington; Andrea Hill, W.S. Neal; Brooke Killen, Lexington; Lybbi Stiefel, White Plains; Abby Dewberry, Lineville; Jeanie Edwards, Wetumpka; Tremayne Wilson, Billingsley; Jennifer Edwards, Gaston
ARKANSAS: Ryan Maloch, Emerson; Kristyn Woodrow, Cabot; Leah Willeford, DeValls Bluff; Samantha Goss, Camden Fairview; Sherry Baum, Bismarck; Kevin Smith, Gravette; Renee Durham, Prairie Green; Jeff Pratt, Melbourne; Shannon Tubbs, Weiner; Kristen Cooper, Valley Springs; Rebecca Wherry, Fairview; Brandy Schall, Glen Rose; Misty Smith, Decatur
ARIZONA: Brandon Leister, Buckeye; Raneey Grissom, Kofa; Stephanie Weuert, Peoria; Crystal Petersen, Mogollon; Candice Murphy, Chandler
CALIFORNIA: Kevin Mathy, Fullerton; Angela Browning, Grass Valley / Bear River; Jessica Allen, Quartz Hill; Paul Amador, Modesto; Matt Archer, Association; Melisa Augusto, Leamooore; Krystal Bailey, Fallbrook; Debi Batini, Association; Lucas Browning, Grass Valley / Bear River; Lindsey Bugbee, Association; Zachary Bush, Grass Valley / Nevada Union; Erin Cardoza, Fresno-Central; April Chaney, Kerman; Andrew Copen, Winterhaven-San Pasqual; Jordan Cordeiro, Hanford; Victoria Costa, Tulare Union; Molly Fagundes, Atwater; Eric Finley, La Habra; Benjamin Fisher, Fresno-Central; Mandy Foreman, Association; Michelle Forsythe, Mariposa; Neil Gibson, Lucerne Valley; Melissa Gomes, Association; Scott Grumbles, Association; Tracy Haas, Association; Tim Hammerich, Santa Rosa-Elsie Allen; Briana Jessen, Fresno-Central; Julie Kondoff, Morgan Hill-Live Oak; Alissa Lovett, Eureka;

Megan McReynolds, Association; Desiree Mendonca, Gustine; Douglas Paasch, Grass Valley / Bear River; Nancy Paasch, Grass Valley / Bear River; Ashley Parker, Elk Grove; Samantha Pepiot, Crescent City - Del Norte; Deanna Richmond, Quartz Hill; Tracy Schohr, Gridley; Amber Simmons, Crescent City - Del Norte; Marcelo Soares, Lemoore; Jessica Thomas, Hanford; Michelle Vieira, Tulare Union; Valarie Walker, Grass Valley-Nevada Union; Trevor Weaver, Elk Grove; Dane White, Association
COLORADO: Karrie Blake, New Raymer; Thad Robertson, Yuma; B.J. Jones, McClave; Justin Hoozes, New Raymer; Heather Hays, Burlington
CONNECTICUT: Stacey Stearns, Storrs; Lee McMillan, Mattabeset; Ryan Colgan, Lebanon Regional; Hilary Sepe, Woodbury
DELAWARE: Michael Leventry, Marian Handlin, Middletown; Alexandria Tsipouras, Middletown; Steve Breeding, Woodbridge
FLORIDA: William Dukes, Lake Butler; Jarett Tyus, Sneads; Kyle Shaw, Lafayette Sr.; Jimmy LeFils, Pine Ridge; Luke Fountain, Lake Region; Austin Bryant, Hardee County Sr.; Diana Alamo, Miami Sr.; Amanda Smith, Pine Ridge; Abby Sameck, Interlachen Sr.; Renee Melton, Dade City Sr.; Lindsay Land, Suwannee Sr.; Phillips Kox, Miami Sr.
GEORGIA: Gregory Ellis, Murray; Eustace Griffin, Brantley; Ben Kennedy, Tattall Co.; Jody Underwood, E.C.I.; Emily Howard, Morgan Co.; Amanda Padgett, Franklin Co.; Joanna Griffin, Berrien; Claudea Paul, Coffee Co.; Meghan Davis, Jackson Co.; Erin East, Miller Co.; Craig Pace, Effingham Co.; Brandi Pritchett, Cass High; Carl Stalvey, Berrien Co.; Sanantonio Taylor, Tift; Emily Tyson, Portal High
HAWAII: Maiko Yajima, Lahainaluna; Leina'ala Posey, Pahoa
IOWA: Nickolas McKenna, Vinton; Ryan Foor, Wapello; Debbie Kleitsch, Wapsie Valley; Hilary Johnson, Linn-Mar; Seth Harrison, Anita; Brad Hammes, Wilton; Amber Wiebecke, St. Ansgar; Maria Medici, Chariton;

Kari Zevenbergen, Sibley Ocheyedan; Tim Hibma, Sibley Ocheyedan; Bryan Humphreys, River Forks
IDAHO: Lance Zollinger, Declo; Dwight Little, Sugar Salem; Krystle Wengreen, Castleford; Greg Chaney, Kuna; Mishele Mittleider, Meridian
ILLINOIS: Betsy Bakken, Lincoln; Beth Wilson, Olney; Robin Niehaus, Hillsboro; Sean Arians, Metamora; Sara Spinazola, Serena; Ted Ufkes, Southeastern; Danny Miller, Farmington; Lindsay Donovan, Clinton; Hillary Lawler, Mulberry; Rene Mettler, Highland; Emily Kessler, Olney; Jeremy Putnam, Paxton-Buckley Loda; Landon Lingle, Dongola; Kelly Tilsey, Franklin Center
INDIANA: Scott Priebe, Southmont; Stephanie Warner, Whitko; Matt Morris, Clinton Central; Joey Marten, Lewis Cass; Lillian Wafford, Star Academy; Renell Calloway, New Miami; Katie Robertson, Southwestern at Shelby; Megan McMichael, Scottsburg; Jared Nussbaum, Adams Central
KANSAS: Beth Ludlum, Uniontown; Sarah Geiger, Troy; Adam Lang, Buhler; James Covey, Wellington; Courtney Everett, Clay Center; Jodi Mason, Chapman
KENTUCKY: Brandon Reed, LaRue; Sara Williamson, Woodford; Joe Thomas, North Hopkins; Jennifer O'Banion, Taylor; Jeffrey Rudy, Ballard Memorial; Taylor Coots, Spencer; Lindsay Johnson, Logan Co.; Brandley Carter, Knox Central; Tommy Logsdon, McLean; Brian Brammell, East Carter; Jeremy Cox, Morgan Co.; Julie P'Pool, Trigg Co.
LOUISIANA: Greta Gautreaux, Central Lafourche; Keith Gates, Lakeview; Heather Pierson, St. Amant; Connie Reeves, Hathaway; KC Toups, Thibodaux; Allison Bruchhaus, Elton; Kevin Moreau, Northwest; Tim Hall, Grant; Anna Dearmon, Winnfield; Nikki Roach, Ruston; Amber Burch; Mt. Hermon
MASSACHUSETTS: Aaron Caswell, Bristol; Joseph Lagasse, Smith; Corrine Blum, Essex
MARYLAND: Krista Lee Hartley, Flintstone; Matt Koerner, Harford Tech; Shaun Shriner, Catoclin

PENNSYLVANIA: Amy Sakers, Milton Hershey
MAINE: Paul Durepo II, Limestone; Jody Roope, Presque Isle
MICHIGAN: Ryan Sweeney, Mason; Mark Daniels, Standish-Sterling; Katie McCune, St. Louis; Elizabeth Smego, Cassopolis; Liz Confer, Perry-Morrice
MINNESOTA: Richard Prestegard, Blue Earth Area; Hector Mathys, Lakeview; Tammy Gilland, Cedar Mountain; Trista Colbenson, Rushford/Peterson; Mandy Kidrowski, Willmar; Justin Lessman, Tracy; Mark Jewell, Long Prairie Grey Eagle; Kellie Ladlie, Albert Lea; Sarah Clemenson, Zumbrota Mazeppa
MISSOURI: Joshua Worthington, Dadeville; Shasta Rentfrow, Seneca; Kristen Curtis, Maysville; Abby Smith, Chillicothe; Colleen Griswold, North Shelby; Jesse Heimer, Palmyra; Nancy Hildebrand, Lakeland; Zach Crews, Slater; Brandon Uchtman, Fordland; David Newman, Couch; Gary Banderman, Union; Daniel Mothershead, Kelley-Benton; Melissa Emmons, Rivers; Doug Kueker, Sweet Springs
MISSISSIPPI: Brandon Davis, Greene County; Joseph McCollum, Northeast Jones; Amanda Hentz, South Panola; Kristen Cockrell, Mize; Heather Holley, Nettleton; Patrick Black, Weir
MONTANA: Christie Flechsenhar, Cascade; Ryan Bailey, Shields Valley; Jarod Linne', Flathead; Austin Knudsen, Culbertson
NORTH CAROLINA: Nicholas Armendariz, West Carteret; Tara Runion, South Rowan; Mark Elliott, Northside; Devon Lewis, Amanda Williams, Christian Wilson, Lauren Buslinger, Bartlett Yancey; Christina Cox, Clayton; Robert Ellis, Harnett Central; Jennifer Gasque, St. Pauls; Bradley Kidd, Chatham Central; Allison Jo McCabe, South Rowan; Jessica Skinner, South Rowan
NORTH DAKOTA: Bryan Kenner, Maddock; Aaron Anderson, Rugby; Dave Axt, McClusky; Dean Knell, Hazen; Jason Oehlke, Wahpeton; Shanna Gratton, Northwood
NEBRASKA: Katie Sissel, Shickley; Craig Fix, Norris; Anthea Kramer, Sutton; Jill Kruger, Logan View; Erin Poessnecher, West Holt; Paul Timm, Lyons-Decatur
NEW HAMPSHIRE: Linnae Seling, Pinkerton; Amy Fogarty, Winnisquam; Cherie Redmond, Dover
NEW JERSEY: Nichole Steward, Norther Burlington; Keith Wassall, Northern Burlington; Dawn Kaufman, Oakcrest; Laura Cooper, HPT - Central
NEW MEXICO: Azori Dodd, Melrose; Leslie Utton, Aztec; Tomee Lightfoot, Animas; Shad Kyner, Los Lunas; Heath Rutherford, Clovis

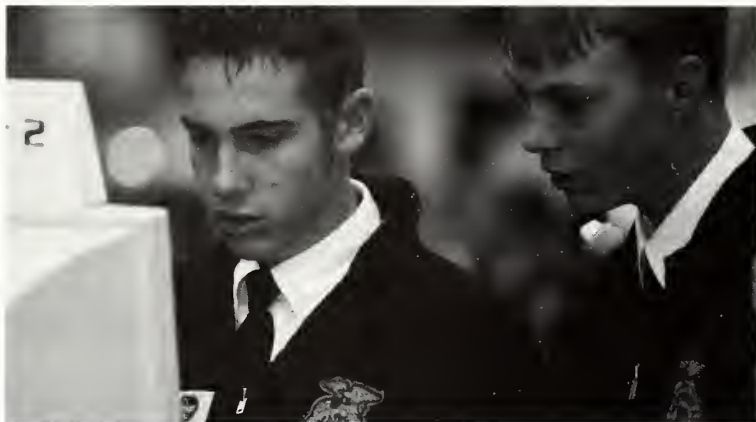


Delegates diligently take notes during a business session and brainstorm ways to improve the FFA experience for thousands of members. Specialized committees were formed to debate serious matters and report back to the general session.

NEVADA: Chad Venters, Ruby Mountain; Joseph Frey, Churchill County; Jessica Goicoechea, Ruby Mountain
NEW YORK: Ann Beckerink, Clymer; Juleah Tolosky, Northern Adirondeck; Nicole Koerner, Letchworth; Mark Henerson, Greenville; Candice Stock, South Jefferson
OHIO: Matt Smith, Benjamin Logan; Heath Eisele, Talawanda; Doug Shannon, Hillsboro; Jason Sharp, Sentinel; Andy Vance, Hillsboro; Jesse Buxton, River View; Adam Bates, Pymatuning Valley; Greg Dague, Northwestern; Laura Dengler, Edgewood; Elaine McConnell, Wellington; Janice Bailey, Alexander; Heather Wells, Hardin Northern; Stephanie Shertzer, Bowling Green; Sue Hoop, Buckeye Trail
OKLAHOMA: Mel Ray Albright, Balko; Jackie Pembroke, Fairview; A.J. Butler, Reydon; Justin Pratt, Davis; Jared Robison, Ringwood; Robyn Sites, Mt. View-Gotebo; David Turner, Eugaula; Brian Leedy, Wilburton; Chas Robbins, Spiro; Trevor Wedman, Yukon; Terrell Buck, Eugaula; Bambi Sidewell, Timberlake; Jennifer Hayes, Depew; Travis Bradshaw, Sterling; Christopher Kidd, Waurika; Rachel Johnson, Elmore City; Matt Adair, Waynoka; Amber Ramsey, Howe; Kendra Kelton, Muldrow; Becky Luke, Calera
OREGON: Audrey Stockhoff, Union; Marc Smith, Woodburn; Sarah Irwin, Junction City; Nikki Jaeger, Henley; Jarid Burley, Knappa
PENNSYLVANIA: Elio Chiarelli, Jr., Cumberland Valley; Bart Gill, Newport; Adam Longenecker, Central Grove; Phillip Frankford Jr., Bermudian; Larissa Baney, Selinsgrove; Maria Trego, West Snyder; Sarah Biddle, Williamsburg
PUERTO RICO: Javier Moreno, Antonia Serrano, Johnathan Tossas, Antonia Serrano, Noel Vargas, Laura Mercado, Dr. Jose Padin
RHODE ISLAND: Adam Buxton, Scituate; Christal Etchells, Scituate
SOUTH CAROLINA: Carrie Erin West, Wagener-Salley; Heather King, Belton-Honea Path; Lori Beth Rhodes, Manning; Myra Anne Walters, Pendleton; Erin Holliday, Lexington ATC; Jaime Marie Rivers, McBee
SOUTH DAKOTA: Tanse Herrmann, Chamberlin; Katie Turner, Alcester-Hudson; Roxanne Wagner, Tulare; Katy Horne, Rapid City; Bobbie Jo Tomac, Rapid City

TENNESSEE: Adam Comer, Riverside; Julie Pedigo, Coffee; Stephanie Johnson, Stephanie Solorio, Glen Gaugh, Shannon Reburn, Sara Rolen, Matt Barnes, Kim Newsom, Craig Phillips, Holli Turner, Jill Bolton
TEXAS: Adam Byrd, Union Grove; Daniel Clayton, Bowie; Dusty Moore, Boy's Ranch; Ty Hamm, John Slaughter, Caney Creek; Shane Shockley, Breckenridge; Will Dickson, Lometa; Kimberly Wright, Penelope; Erin Schroeder, Madisonville; Heather Lawhon, Banquete; Benn Pigg, Valley; Carmen Terry, White Deer; Karen Wilhelm, Nazareth; Josh Jordan, Shallowater; Clay Cade, Rotan; Loren Wolf, Wahoma; Jacob West, Sonora; Jason McClure, Caney Creek; Matthew Wagener, Humble; Tracy Tomasick, Buckholts; Darrell Bowers, Tiehaven; James McKendree, Pearland; Wes Cooper, Olney; Kaely Blay, Matt Bell, David Dixou, Stephanville; Jonathan Mallard, Krum; Brad Mabry, Weatherford; Joe Brhlick, Sherman; Carley Wood, Cedar Hill; Damon Young, Mineola; Daniel Kessler, Linder-Kildare; Jessica Foster, Big Sandy; Matthew Kempen, Somerset; Alyson Lyles, Devine; Marcy Melton, Lampasas; Audrey Smith, Elgin; Dustin Clark, Waxahachie; Julie Wright, Midlothian; Phillip Smith, Brownsboro; Lyndsey Schneider, Hillsboro; Dustin Kinder, Livingston; Dustin Pearson, Huntsville; Jayson Hill, Cleveland; Jess Widener, Colmesneil; Reagan Pillack, Agua Duke; Amanda Thompson, Mission; Jeff Petter, Pleasanton; Paul Harding, Lyford; Greg Coats, Kilgore
UTAH: Braden Hancock, Dixie; Melissa Swenson, Payson; Wyatt Gardiner, Morgan; Mandy Bushman, Bingham; Laurel Evans, Weber
VIRGINIA: Leslie Funkhouser, Strasburg; Beth Stover, Turner Ashby; Scott Russell, Carroll Co.; Jason Carpenter, Culpeper; Amanda Avery, Dinwiddie; Matthew Hickey, Buffalo Gap; Bart Kite, Page Co.; Bridget Sine, Central; Luke Turner, Louisa; Ben Grove, Turner Ashby
VIRGIN ISLANDS: Sue Matty, St. Croix Educational Complex; Kimesha Michael, St. Croix Central High School Agriscience
VERMONT: Kristin Quesnel, Middlebury; Sidney Vander Wey, Vergennes
WASHINGTON: Abbie Kammerzell, Colfax; Joe Brown, Fernoale; Atiya Palmer, Medical Lake; Emily Hyland, Cascade; Amanda McKinley, Waitsburg; Desire'e Cordas, Sumner; Jessica Mackin, Rochester; Matthew Sweezee, Zillah; Morgan Irwin, Enunclaw
WISCONSIN: Tolea Kamm, New Richmond; Trish Hieronimczak, Pulaski; Cindy Dipprey, Turtle Lake; Sara Zimmerman, Eau Claire Memorial; Katie Lee, Holmen; Jennifer Smith, Argyle; Tracy Smithback, Cambridge; Julie Holler, Lodi; Jake Peissig, Colby; Jim Melby, Waupaca; Matthew Reinders, Johnson Creek; Jed Bauer, Spencer; Cortney Peissig, Wisconsin Colby; Beth Planz, Waupaca; Rebecca Kyles, Green Bay Preble
WEST VIRGINIA: Tyrell Childers, St. Marys; Jeremy Fletcher, Tyler; Benjamin Collier, Philippi; Josh Holmes, Belmont; Christy Morrison, Ravenswau
WYOMING: Jeremy Burkett, Burns; Jessica Clark, Burns; Michelle Vigil, Riverside; Stacy Child, Cheyenne

official delegates



You have mail! FFA members were able to send electronic postcards across the country using computer stations. Computer laboratories were sponsored by USAccess Bank, A Division of The Central Bank USA, Inc. and DoughNet as a special project of the National FFA Foundation.

committee reports

agricultural education trends

We recommend:

Alliance Development

- *1. Develop media alliances allowing agricultural education and FFA to be seen, heard and read by the general public.
2. Develop promotional pieces to be distributed to school administrators and faculty, parents and other interested parties to illustrate the benefits of agricultural education and FFA.
3. Develop materials for advisors and state officers addressing the do's and don'ts of developing and continuing alliance support.
4. Establish in *FFA New Horizons* and the FFA web site an alliance recognition page with references to their support.
5. Build alliances with federal officials, including the U.S. President, to build recognition and support for agricultural education and FFA.
6. Create a directory of state representatives from national sponsors.

Technologies and Teaching Strategies

- *1. Create a partnership with industry sponsorship to provide every agriculture program with computer access (allowing students to experience new technologies such as e-mail, world wide web and power point).
2. Develop a national program to educate teachers on the importance and benefits of teaching students about the new technologies available in agriculture.
3. Create a partnership with National FFA and the agriculture industry to develop a curriculum for an advancement in agriculture technology class for students.
4. Establish a system of updates on new technology to be used by educators to teach students (i.e., CD-ROM, video, newsletters).

Teacher Development

- *1. That the *FFA New Horizons* create a section for star agriculture teachers in conjunction with the star student section to give recognition to agricultural educators.
2. That the National FFA Organization develop a "sister school" program, allowing for communication and interaction between chapters and advisors nationwide.
3. That the National FFA Organization update statistics and information about job opportunities available to agricultural education instructors in each state, by contact of all state associations.
4. Develop an interstate agriculture student exchange program following the same structure as the international FFA exchange program.
5. Establish a nationally recognized agriculture program such as "Gold Emblem Chapters" as models for other chapters in that state.
6. Explore the possibility for developing materials for state and local use to improve new teachers and new teaching techniques.
7. Improve promotion of new teacher workshop to state staff and teacher educators.

Agricultural Literacy

- *1. That the *FFA New Horizons* run a permanent article featuring information on one or two hot agricultural topics with the FFA web site providing extra information on them.
2. That a task force be set up to explore ways that agricultural aspects can be incorporated into other disciplines.
3. That the National FFA Organization develop a packet consisting of ideas state associations use at large public events (ie: State Fairs and convention) to promote agricultural literacy, and the resources to be utilized at such functions.
4. That the agricultural issue forum be promoted more often to encourage participation; and the Food For America Program be expanded to include grades 6-8, 9-12 and adults.
5. That the National FFA Organization use the media to promote agricultural awareness (for example, TV commercials and world wide web).
6. That the *FFA New Horizons* be sent to major supporters and administrators.

Respectfully Submitted:

Tolea Kamm, WI (Chair)
 Ryan Maloch, AR (Vice Chair)
 Braden Hancock, UT
 Dave Axt, ND
 Ben Pigg, TX
 Trista Colbenson, MN
 Craig Fix, NE
 Heather Pierson, LA
 Amanda Williams, NC
 Jeffrey Rudy, KY
 Jessica Goicoechea, NV
 Luke Browning, CA
 Tanse Herrmann, SD
 Keith Wassal, NJ
 Kevin Mathy, CA
 Abby Smith, MO
 Desiree Cordas, WA
 Jared Robison, OK
 Nicole Koerner, NY
 Sara Zimmerman, WI
 Jarid Burley, OR
 Emily Howard, GA
 Erin Schroeder, TX
 Jesse Buxton, OH
 Jason Carpenter, VA
 Adam Bates, OH
 Bart Gill, PA
 Justin Pratt, OK
 Christian Wilson, NE
 Kimberly Wright, TX
 Will Dickison, TX
 Stephanie Solorio, TN
 Debi Batini, CA
 Aaron Caswell, MA
 Azori Dodd, NM
 Josh Dozier, AL
 Krystal Bailey, CA
 Adam Lang, KS
 Justin Hoozee, CO
 Robin Niehaus, IL
 Hilary Johnson, IA
 Kyle Shaw, FL
 Jennifer O'Banion, KY
 Matt Morris, IN

chapter activities

We recommend:

Community Development

- *1. Community development workshops for state officers, advisors and staff. Provide an instructional book, with a motivational video and complimenting CD-ROM. Utilize these resources to promote community development within all aspects of the National FFA, specifically all local chapters.
2. Providing awards for chapters demonstrating excellence in any area of community development.
3. Seeking financial support from the Council, the National FFA Foundation, and any other appropriate organizations for these initiatives.

Chapter Awards

- *1. Offer grants to national winners in all three areas of the Program of Activities in the amount of \$3,000 to be used at their discretion in addition to current awards.
2. Assist with the cost for national finalists coming to national convention interviews.
3. Make information more accessible by:
 - A. Providing a web link that has an obtainable application, instructions, examples and e-mail addresses of contact persons.
 - B. Featuring the winners in *FFA New Horizons* along with information about the award.
2. Provide a teacher packet with information and example for current teachers and teacher educators.
3. Provide workshops:
 - A. At national convention for advisors and/or members.
 - B. At state conventions, put on by the top chapters in the state.

Middle School FFA Opportunities

- *1. The development of career development events specifically tailored to meet curriculum needs of middle school FFA members, separate from ninth to twelfth grade contests, emphasizing middle school learning principles. Suggestions include:
 - speaking events: opening/closing ceremony contest
 - exploratory career developments (broad based)
2. Promotion of middle school FFA chapters in our organization through:
 - *FFA New Horizons Magazine*
 - *UPDATE*
 - *FFA Advisors Making a Difference*
 - Other publications
3. Create a link on the National FFA Organization homepage that features middle school involvement and opportunities.
4. Continue and improve middle school involvement at the national convention through workshops, luncheons, etc.
5. Develop and distribute a teachers' packet to inform teachers of middle school FFA opportunities and to share best practices.
6. Include middle school training in a session of BLAST Off that would include communication and presentation techniques appropriate for middle school members.
7. Continue to support and improve the EDGE conference.
8. Provide a well-publicized national contact person who is responsible for the promotion, improvement, and implementation of middle school programs.

Agricultural Literacy

- *1. Agricultural Literacy Video Applications
 - A. Provide recognition of the top four agricultural literacy programs at the chapter level (chapter would apply with a video application).
 - B. Application will be a 20-minute video that explains the program and the role of the chapter in informing the public about agricultural literacy. Have national recognition videos played during the four days of convention (e.g., the final four with one chapter recognized per day).
 - C. This video can be used in conjunction with PALS, Food for America, Ag in the Classroom, etc.
 - D. These applications can be judged on criteria such as creativity and presentation; however, the focus is not on an award, but to showcase chapters.
2. Agricultural Literacy Improvements for *FFA New Horizons*
 - A. Showcase chapters that promote agricultural literacy.
 - B. Promote FFA opportunities and how they relate to agriculture careers (e.g., FFA livestock-judging contests help prepare for careers such as veterinary medicine, food science, production, etc.).
 - C. Classified or wanted ads that give information on agriculture careers and their salaries, education, and benefits.
 - D. Marginal notes or page borders giving quick FFA and/or agriculture facts.
3. Multi-media
 - A. Develop four agriculture literacy CD-ROM's at four levels — elementary, junior high, high school and adult.
 - B. Knowledge be provided for younger students through interactive activities.
 - C. Knowledge be provided for higher level students through interactive quizzes.
 - D. Target new agriculture educators and schools without agriculture education programs.
 - E. Quizzes be available on the FFA Homepage or *FFA New Horizons*.

Respectfully submitted:

Brandon Reed, KY (Chair)
Amy Kenley, AK (Vice Chair)
Krista Hartley, MD
Joe Brown, WA
Carrie West, SC
Matt Smith, OH
Jackie Pembrook, OK
Ann Beckerik, NY
Trish Hieronimack, WS
Sherry Baum, AR
Mariah Handlin, DE
Leinaa'la Posey, HI
Carnen Terry, TX
Lorin Wolf, TX
Amanda Padgett, GA
Zach Bush, CA
Dean Knell, ND
Josh Holmes, WV
Adam Longenecker, PA
April Chaney, CA
Immy LeFils, FL
Lauren Buslinger, NC
Karen Wilhelm, TX
Glen Gaugh, TN
Katie Lee, WI
Seth Harrison, IA
Connie Reeves, LA
Andrew Copen, CA
Landon L. Lingle, IL
Mandy Kidrowski, MN
Clay Cade, TX
Lindsey Bugbee, CA
Nancy Hildebrand, MS
Devon Lewis, NC
Josh Johnson, AL
Knox Phillips, FL
Sarah Edith Irwin, OR
Ben Kennedy, GA
Samantha Goss, AL
Erin Cardoza, CA
Heather Hays, CO
Joey Martin, IN
James Covey, KS
Jesse Heimer, MO
Robyn Sites, OK
Josh Jordan, TX
Amanda Avery, VA

committee reports

career success activities

We Recommend:

American FFA Degree:

- *1. The American FFA Degree contain a category for community service, with a minimum service time determined by the National FFA Organization.
2. Do not make the FFA Degree into two separate applications.
3. The National FFA Organization should continue to look into the future of inflation and overall economic conditions as they relate to the American FFA Degree application.

Career Development Events:

- *1. There should be a brief description of all Career Development Events in the New Horizons magazine and on the Internet.
2. To have tractor driving as a national contest.
3. Recognize co-op programs at the national level.

Proficiency Award:

- *1. We agree with the decisions made by the Proficiency Task Force.
2. No other proficiency areas should be changed.

SAE:

- *1. Incorporate a grant/loan system, funded by corporate sponsors to provide students with a foundation for their SAE projects.
2. Add an SAE component to BLAST Off or NLCSO to properly present SAE information.
3. Hold an SAE fair at national convention and encourage states to hold an SAE fair at the state level.
4. Develop an awards system to credit those chapters showing high productivity in SAE's, by awarding them with gift certificates from Ventures supply store.
5. Recommend that SAE's be required in all agriculture education curricula.



A representative from Husqvarna explains career opportunities to these attentive FFA members.



FFA members participated in 22 career development events during the convention, from extemporaneous public speaking to agricultural communications demonstration. This forestry activity was held at Bernheim Forest.

Respectfully submitted:

Adam J. Byrd, TX (Chair)
Corrine A. Blum, MA (Vice Chair)
Lisa Jividen, AL
Leah Willeford, AR
Jessica Allen, CA
Matt Archer, CA
B.J. Jones, CO
Jarrett Tyus, FL
Maiko Yajima, HI
Krystle Wengreen, ID
Joe Thomas, KY
Shaun Shriner, MD
Katie McCune, MI
Kristen Curtis, MO
Jarod Linne', MT
Laura Cooper, NJ
Greg Dague, OH
A.J., Butler, OK
Adam Buxton, RI
Stephanie Johnson, TN
Dusty Moore, TX
John Slaughter, TX

Kristyn Woodrow, AR
Paul Amador, CA
Melissa Augusto, CA
Lee McMillan, CT
Jody Underwodd, GA
Debbie Kleitsch, IA
Beth Wilson, IL
Keith Gates, LA
Jody Roope, ME
Tammy Gilland, MN
Amanda Hentz, MS
Mark Elliott, NC
Janice Bailey, OH
Mel Ray Alright, OK
Marc Smith, OR
Lori Beth Rhodes, SC
Ty Hamm, TX
Shane Shockley, TX
Scott Russell, VA
Kirstin Quesnel, VT
Cindy Dipprey, WI
Benjamin Collier, WV

committee reports

communications and public relations

We recommend:

Communications Technology and National FFA Online

1. Review and reorganize *National FFA Online* by audience and interests (i.e., students/teachers/administrators, recruitment, personal stories, specific monitored chat rooms, state associations, applications, scholarships).
2. Simplify state association web addresses and develop links from *National FFA Online*.
3. Pursue the development of interactive CD-ROM's in the following areas: how to use the internet, how to build a webpage, how to correspond, CDE information, how to build your chapter (i.e., fundraising, activities, etc.).
4. Web page promotion through personalization (i.e., e-mail, web link, state activities).

Media Relations and Public Relations

1. Develop a Chapter Public Relations Guide including: information on key messages, press release formats, examples of correspondence, FFA Week ideas, sample Public Service Announcements, and a list of resources available. Include supplements in *FFA New Horizons*.
2. Develop online surveys for best practices and ideas relative to public relations. (Publish results in *FFA New Horizons*.)
3. Design motivational and exciting posters for schools that show a variety of "fun" images of FFA.
4. Seek national co-branding sponsor (i.e., "Proud Sponsor of National FFA" on Papa John's pizza boxes).
5. Evaluate timeliness of current promotional videos and resume distribution of convention highlights.
6. Develop FFA emblems that can be put on community billboards to be offered through the supply service catalog.
7. Provide a link from the web site to AOL for creating chapter homepages.
8. Gear website toward members.
9. Encourage state recognition of exceptional reporters.
10. Include motivational quotes in *FFA New Horizons*.

Communications Strategies for Member Recruitment, Involvement, and Retention Programs

1. Create links on the web site specifically for recruitment strategies and opportunities.
2. Create a database of members' e-mail addresses by adding a column on the membership rosters for e-mail addresses.
3. Add a place on the membership rosters to indicate chapter presidents so we may target these individuals with recruitment materials.

4. Re-direct posters to non-agricultural students and create videos with exciting, casual dress scenes.
5. Create a web-based e-mail server through www.ffa.org for member e-mail accounts.

National FFA Convention Communications

1. Create a student communications team that will deal with on-site convention information topics like Internet access, news-stand information, event locations, etc.
2. Strategically place television monitors around convention that will broadcast daily agendas and convention highlights. Also have scrolling marquis or kiosks display information.
3. Place informative table tents on food court tables and other places where people congregate. Also place information in strategic locations (i.e., bathroom stalls, local food places, on shuttle buses, etc.). Enhance the guidebook to include information about presenters'/speakers' key points.
4. Provide an incentive program for members who attend different events (i.e., scavenger hunt, verification cards).
5. Create a standard workshop for state officers to present addressing national convention.
6. Try to set up an alliance with Channel-One News to promote and report on the national FFA convention.



Delegates from Texas stand together, even after the grueling hours on the delegate floor. Delegates met Monday through Saturday for business sessions.

committee reports

Respectfully submitted:

Nick McKenna, IA (Chair)
 Renee Durham, AR
 Brandon Leister, AZ
 Victoria Costa, CA
 Eric Finley, CA
 Mike Leventry, DE
 Meghan Davis, GA
 Dwight Little, ID
 Sean Ariens, IL
 Taylor Coots, KY
 Paul Durepo, ME
 Justin Lessman, MN
 Brandon Uchtman, MO
 Annthie Kramer, NE
 Juleah Tolosky, NY
 Heath Eisele, OH
 David Turner, OK
 Heather King, SC
 Shannon Reburn, TN
 Jason McClure, TX
 Matt Wagner, TX
 Matthew Hickey, VA
 Jennifer Smith, WI

Jared Mitchell, AL
 Kevin Smith, AR
 Jordan Cordeiro, CA
 Molly Fagundes, CA
 Thad Robertson, CO
 Luke Fountain, FL
 Claudia Paul, GA
 Stephanie Warner, IN
 Courtney Everett, KS
 K.C. Toups, LA
 Beth Smego, MI
 Zach Crews, MO
 Christina Cox, NC
 Dawn Kaufman, NJ
 Laura Dengler, OH
 Brian Leedy, OK
 Phillip Frankford Jr., PA
 Roxanne Wagner, SD
 Darrrell Bowers, TX
 Tracy Tomascik, TX
 Jacob West, TX
 Emily Hyland, WA
 Tracy Smithback, WI

committee reports

FFA publications



Extra! Extra! Read all about it. These FFA members stayed abreast of convention happenings by reading the daily newspaper, *FFA Today*. The newspaper was sponsored by The Courier-Journal, Lexington Herald Leader and Landmark Communications.

Respectfully submitted:

Scott Priebe, IN (Chair)
Melissa Swenson, UT (Vice Chair)
Ryan Foor, IA
Katie Turner, SD
Nichole Steward, NJ
Elio Chiarelli, PA
Leslie Funkhouser, VA
Greta Gartreaux, LA

We Recommend:

FFA Home Page

- *1. Create a virtual help center, including a virtual assistant, to help the user. Include a pop-up character with voice feed (similar to assistant in Microsoft Office).
2. Create a link to the National FFA's theme songs, including archives of past theme songs. Also, have current theme song play when home page comes up.
3. Implement a national officer tracking link that highlights where the officers are during a certain time. Have voice feeds and pictures highlighting their travels.
4. Remove old links and update links already on the page. Review facts that are currently on the page.
5. Create a link that lets members submit articles to the home page focusing on identified subjects. The articles will be periodically removed.

Handbook

- *1. An index consisting of informational key words should be inserted into the FFA Handbook.
2. Replace the straight blue borders by alternating the color of margins between blue & gold.
3. Cross-check information between the manual and the handbook.
4. Devote one entire page to the National FFA Creed.
5. Place key terms and vocabulary in the margins for easier teaching of important information.

Manual

- *1. Insert an index consisting of informational key words into the FFA Manual.
2. Insert tabs in the manual corresponding with the table of contents applying alternating colors (red, white and black) in order to find information in the manual.
3. Spiral binding the FFA manual would make reading much easier and accessible. In addition to the spiral bound manual, the traditional style manual would also be accessible.
4. Include a drawing or picture in the FFA Manual showing official dress for men and women with detailing lines showing specific features of the uniform.
5. Have an optional official opening/closing ceremonies for the parts of parliamentarian, students advisor, chaplain, and historian in the Official Manual.

New Ideas

- *1. FFA acquires its own computer server with:
 - A. Links from national, state and chapter home pages
 - B. Attaching web page to certain search engines
 - C. Links to agricultural education technology
 - D. Create database management system
2. Improve professional appearance of *FFA New Horizons*
 - A. Broadening advertisement base
 - B. Creating a section for each age group
 - C. Creating a calendar of events on the national level
 - D. Referencing links in *FFA New Horizons* for specific topics
3. Spiral-Bind Official Manuals that have tabs and are larger in size.
4. Personalize home page and create a memory of previous visits to the site by personal e-mail address.
5. Put the Official Manual on the home page.
6. Create partnership with other school clubs for help on chapter or local home page.
 - A. Updating
 - B. General Maintenance

FFA New Horizons

- *1. *FFA New Horizons* implement a bolder, more mature and informative magazine cover that will be attractive to members through photo covers and visual structure through article previews.
2. An electronic version of *FFA New Horizons* be made readily available, providing opportunities available to members, links to other state inserts, a preview page of what is to come in upcoming issues, an overview of past and current issues of interactions – all in an easily navigable web site.
3. A page or half-page be established that provides members with links to Internet sites on various topics from scholarships, special interests, agricultural facts, associations/chapter links, and people/groups.
4. *FFA New Horizons* periodically insert business reply cards with information on upcoming opportunities and events on the national level that members may want to receive more information on.
5. A career sketch should be provided in each issue that highlights a specific career with a past member who has excelled in their field of interest or career choice.
6. *FFA New Horizons* cover a broader spectrum of articles that will allow urban members to relate.
7. *FFA New Horizons* develop a national cover design search.
8. *FFA New Horizons* feature a profile article of a past national officer 10, 15, or 20 years down the road, looking into their lives, families and what social developments they may have been involved with over the years.
9. Include a quote, trivia question, joke, etc., on each page.
10. *FFA New Horizons* develop an evaluation form to insert for member responses.
11. *FFA New Horizons* look into new fresh advertisements that appeal to different groups.
12. Provide all national officers' e-mail addresses for the members on the national officer Q&A page.

leadership and personal development

We recommend:

Technology Implementation

- *1. Develop a grant program and application process to ensure that the chapters who truly need technology have an equal chance of obtaining it through a partnership with sponsors (starting at the state level and ending at the national level).
2. Encourage the National FFA Organization to develop a technology task force to reach a broader spectrum of FFA members in order to utilize current and forthcoming technology.
3. Encourage national staff to promote the production of promotional videos relating to different divisions (i.e. area, district, region, section, etc.) at NLC SO or BLAST Off.

Program Refurbishment and Development

1. The state officer continuum to include more detailed recruitment and fundraising ideas from all associations and present them to state officers and chapters.
- *2. National convention student workshops should be developed that will increase the awareness of FFA international programs and newly developed FFA leadership programs.
3. Use the state officer continuum to implement new ideas and techniques for working with younger FFA members.
4. That Advanced Leadership Development (ALD) program include an area involving the utilization of leadership skills developed at previous levels.

Leadership Programs Promotion

1. Have better utilization of web page and *FFA New Horizons* for promotional purposes, for programs such as Experiencing Discovery, Growth and Excellence (EDGE), Made for Excellence (MFE), Advanced Leadership Development (ALD) and Washington Leadership Conference (WLC) by including dates and places of these programs for all states and the purpose of program.
- *2. Create an exhibit to highlight FFA leadership programs at national and state conventions.
3. Declare a "Greenhand Day" and use it to enrich greenhands' knowledge of advanced opportunity levels in the FFA.

committee reports

Program Evaluation

- *1. Traditional evaluation by number or scantron evaluations be replaced with more creative evaluation methods (e.g., begin a conference with skits regarding expectations, followed by another skit at the end of the conference where students demonstrate what they have learned). A suggestion box to provide a forum for comments regarding the conference.
2. Evaluations should be relevant to the conference, conference theme and the age group of the participants involved.
3. Evaluations should be sought periodically throughout the conference, instead of one overall evaluation submitted at the end of the conference only.

Respectfully submitted:

Gregory Ellis, GA (Chair)
Bill Leib, PA (Vice Chair)
Alisha Turnbull, AL
Bambi Sidwell, OK
Beth Stover, VA
Betsy Bakken, IL
Matt Barnes, TN
Brad Mabry, TX
Stephanie Wellet, AZ
Joseph Lagasse, MA
Anna Dearmon, LA
Wyatt Gardiner, UT
Joseph McCollum, MS
Lillian Wafford, IN

Brandi Pritchett, GA
Bradley Carter, KY
Jim Melby, WI
Ryan Sweeney, MI
Melissa Gomes, CA
Kelly Tilsey, IL
Sarah Myers, OH
Myra Walters, SC
Katy Horne, SD
Terrell Buck, OK
Amanda Dight, IA
Tim Hammerich, CA
Erin Poessnecker, NE
Carley Wood, TX

Joe Brhlik, TX
Alexandra Tsipouras, DE
Daniel Mothershead, MO
Daniel Clayton, TX
Diana Alamo, FL
Mark Henerson, NY
Jonathon Mallard, TX
Scott Grumbles, CA
Shannon Tubbs, AK
Atiya Palmer, WA
Melissa Emmons, MO
Andrea Hill, AL
Matt Reinders, WI



Important decisions regarding the FFA had to be made during convention week. Delegate support and discussion were a crucial session.

committee reports

marketing and merchandising

Respectfully submitted:

Matt Wilson, AK (Chair)
Chrystal Peterson, AZ (Vice Chair)
Brooke Killen, AL
Nikki Cooper, AR
Julie Kondoff, CA
Alissa Lovett, CA
Megan McReynolds, CA
Desiree Mendonca, CA
Ryan Colgan, CT
Amanda Smith, FL
Carl Stalvey, GA
Kari Zevenbergen, IA
Ted Ufkes, IL
Renell Calloway, IN
Tommy Logsdon, KY
Allison Bruchhaus, LA
Matt Koerner, MD (Co-Chair)
Mark Jewell, MN
Doug Kueker, MO
Austin Knudsen, MT
Tara Runion, NC (Co-Chair)
Shanna Gratton, ND
Linnae Seling, NH (Co-Chair)
Leslie Utton, NM
Chad Venters, NV (Co-Chair)
Elaine McConnell, OH
Lindsey Pound, OH
Travis Bradshaw, OK
Jennifer Hayes, OK
Audrey Stockhoff, OR (Co-Chair)
Larissa Baney, PA
Jonathan Tossas, PR (Co-Chair)
Kim Newsom, TN
Greg Coats, TX
Jessica Foster, TX
Matthew Kempen, TX
Daniel Kessler, TX
Damon Young, TX
Mandy Bushman, UT
Bart Kite, VA
Sidney Vander Wey, VT (Co-Chair)
Morgan Irwin, WA
Jed Bauer, WI
Stacy Child, WY

We Recommend:

Customer Relations

- *1. Insert two or three extra pages in the *FFA New Horizons* with products from the student catalog that students can order. Also, insert a request card for a student catalog in the magazine with questions (e.g., "Have you ever ordered from the student catalog before?")
2. After orders are received, send customers a confirmation card/e-mail with an expected shipment date. List their order so they can make sure the FFA center received the correct order.
3. For Internet shopping, give passwords to each advisor to ensure security in ordering instead of using credit card numbers. The password will pull up information about the school, include billing address/person, etc.
4. Use e-mail chat service (using same password as above) to answer questions during busy season if phones are busy.
5. Offer more toll-free lines, including a suggestion line.
6. Publicize the magazine modeling opportunities more, possibly in *FFA New Horizons*, for the FFA catalog.
7. Place shipping chart next to order form in catalog.
8. Give specific sizes (in inches) of jewelry, such as earrings.
9. Supply a larger variety of advisor gifts in the student catalog.
10. Provide special phone numbers specifically for ordering jackets and call it "jacket line."

Marketing Strategies

- *1. Create a poster for FFA products featuring national and/or state officers for distribution to all chapters.
2. Place accessories and other apparel on people to enhance the detail of the product.
3. Use national and state officers as models in the catalog.
4. Mail the catalog twice a year with spring and fall updates.
5. Make the catalog easier to use by including a table of contents and staggered colored tabs along the side versus the top.
6. Ask chapter and state web pages to add a link to the online store.
7. Create a sizing chart for all clothing in the catalog.
8. Create a tear-out or send a postcard to inform members about the online store and catalog, and encourage them to get a catalog.
9. Offer coupons in *FFA New Horizons* for items in the catalog or the online store.
10. Provide a way for members to submit their ideas for new items in the catalog and online store.

Internet Store Evaluation

- *1. Upgrade online store stock to include a complete catalog of National Convention Merchandise and FFA computer merchandise.
2. Provide access codes for advisors and state staff to order awards, related products and FFA jackets.
3. Increase advertising using e-mail, leaflets and on-line perks for using/visiting the on-line store.
4. Put menus and descriptions on separate scroll bars.
5. Use better-quality pictures.
6. Don't use models for on-line pictures.
7. Use larger photos of logos on merchandise.
8. Use more detailed merchandise descriptions including size.

Product Development

- *1. Redesign quality of official dress (skirts and pants) and provide appropriate size charts.
2. Offer bulk packaged official dress.
3. Expand variety of bumper stickers/static-cling.
4. Personalize license plate covers.
5. Offer full-sized sports ball with the FFA emblem.
6. Offer linens with the emblem (i.e. pillowcases, sheets, etc.)
7. Offer FFA emblem cookie cutter.
8. Offer ice chest.
9. Offer can cozy/coolie.
10. Widen variety of caps and visors (vary shape, color, hat, patches).
11. Offer blue and gold Christmas lights.
12. Offer graduation tassels.
13. Offer fleece vests.
14. Offer embroidery on more merchandise.
15. Offer Carhartt and Columbia jackets.
16. Offer regular watches and clocks.
17. Add more jewelry.
18. Offer variety of overalls.
19. Offer shoestrings.
20. Offer mesh athletic shorts.
21. Offer spirit tattoos.
22. Offer shirts for FFA supporters/partners.
23. Offer FFA trading cards.
24. Offer FFA wrapping paper.
25. Offer children's clothing.
26. Offer personal photo album and frames.
27. Offer collectors tin.
28. Offer thermal travel mug.
29. Offer FFA roping bag and dummy.



Davey Tree was one of the 349 career show exhibits that featured a hands-on approach to agricultural careers.



These FFA members enjoyed spending time together in between convention sessions.

program of activities

Program of Activities:

We recommend:

- *1. Scheduling time for committee meeting room preparation.
2. Scheduling meeting time for committee chairs, vice chairs and co-chairs.
3. Scheduling meeting time for committee chairs, vice chairs, delegate coordinators and assistant delegate coordinators.
4. Building in clarification of the delegate process during delegate orientation at national convention.
5. Formatting a template for committee reports.
6. Creating an understanding at the State President's Conference of the chair's, vice chair's and co-chair's roles as facilitators during the delegate process at national convention.

Respectfully Submitted:

Will Dukes, FL (Chair)
Matt Wilson, AK
Gregory Ellis, GA
Nick McKenna, IA
Scott Priebe, IN
Sarah Geiger, KS
Brandon Reed, KY
Katie Sissel, NE
Adam Byrd, TX
Tolea Kamm, WI

committee reports

membership recruitment and participation

We recommend:

100% Membership

- *1. Compile a 100% membership packet to send to all chapters (including fundraisers for dues and rewards for chapters).
2. Start a national advertising campaign (billboards, Internet, commercials, etc.).
3. Encourage states to establish a support system for all agricultural education teachers and include other agricultural associations.
4. Promote chapter member ambassador/recruiter awards and recognition through *FFA New Horizons* and the FFA homepage.
5. Promote 100% membership through *FFA New Horizons*.

National Recruitment Programs

- *1. Split the National Recruitment Program into a two-phase application, beginning the first phase with recommendations from past state officer teams, and the second phase with objectives of current officer teams.
2. Encourage states to provide FFA advisors/teachers and chapter officers with more effective ways to use recruitment/retention material.
3. Feature the winner of state officer recognition program in *FFA New Horizons*.
4. Recognize the winner of recognition program during the national convention session with an individual state plaque award and place state name on a national plaque award.
5. Present the FFA guide to recruitment/retention to college agriculture professors.
6. Award the winning state with a special entertainment feature that will be held during its state convention.

Member Benefits

- *1. Create a welcome package targeted toward greenhands, emphasizing the opportunities available within the FFA, and send it directly to members.
2. Develop chapter officer training emphasizing recruitment and retention of members nationwide.
3. Publicize the benefits of three year membership through all available resources (ie. Manual, *FFA New Horizons*, web site).
4. Implement an incentive program targeting advisors and/or chapters which will reward each chapter for recruitment (points toward FFA catalog).
5. Better promote the diverse programs of the FFA by centering around the non-traditional, agricultural programs (i.e. proficiencies other than production, agricultural communication, agricultural sales and international travel).

Member Retention

- *1. Educate agricultural education teachers via Internet tutorial (web site), hardcopy and conferences in order to motivate and retain members.
2. Create an information packet to send to counselors and administrators showing the FFA connection to curriculum standards and the benefits of FFA.
3. Send a personal letter directly to the homes of first-year members welcoming them to the FFA.
4. Develop a local *recognition* program to recognize quality supervised agricultural experience (SAE) using a gold/silver/bronze system.
5. Continue supporting collegiate FFA and alumni membership; try to expand programs and distribute more information about post-secondary involvement.

Respectfully submitted:

Katie Sissel, NE (Chair)
Joshua Worthington, MO (Vice Chair)
Lybbi Stiefel, AL
Misty Smith, AR
Candice Murphy, AZ
Angela Browning, CA
Douglas Paasch, CA
Nancy Paasch, CA
Ashley Parker, CA
Samantha Pepiot, CA
Abby Sameck, FL
Eustace Griffin, GA
San Antonio Taylor, LA
Tim Hibma, IA
Lindsay Donovan, IL
Danny Miller, IL
Katie Rohertson, IN
Beth Ludlum, KS
Brian Brammell, KY
Jeremy Cox, KY
Kevin Moreau, LA
Mark Daniels, MI
Kellie Ladlie, MN
Bradley Kidd, NC
Tomee Lightfoot, NM
Joseph Frey, NV
Doug Shannon, OH
Stephanie Shertzer, OH
Rachel Johnson, OK
Nikki Jaeger, OR
Maria Trego, PA
Javier Moreno, PR
Erin Holliday, SC
Jill Bolton, TN
Adam Comer, TN
Dustin Clark, TX
Alyson Lyles, TX
Marcy Melton, TX
Audrey Smith, TX
Julie Wright, TX
Laurel Evans, UT
Bridget Sine, VA
Abbie Kammerzell, WA
Christy Morrison, WV

committee reports



Delegates actively participate in discussion on the delegate floor.

Respectfully submitted:

Will Dukes, FL (Chair)	Jessica Thomas, CA
Karrie Blake, CO (Vice Chair)	Valarie Walker, CA
Jeanie Edwards, AL	Dane White, CA
Tremayne Wilson, AL	Lindsay Land, FL
Becca Wherry, AR	Bryan Humphreys, IA
Michelle Vieira, CA	Emily Kessler, IL
Trevor Weaver, CA	Sara Williamson, KY
Hilary Sepe, CT	Justin Bowman, LA
Emily Tyson, GA	Sarah Clemenson, MN
Lance Zollinger, ID	Heather Holley, MS
Jared Nussbaum, IN	Jessica Skinner, NC
Amber Burch, LA	Candice Stock, NY
Nikki Roach, LA	Heather Wells, OH
Colleen Griswold, MO	Becky Luke, OK
Ryan Bailey, MT	Noel Vargas, PR
Heath Rutherford, NM	Paul Harding, TX
Andy Vance, OH	Jeff Petter, TX
Kendra Kelton, OK	Amanda Thompson, TX
Amy Sakers, PA	Matthew Sweeza, WA
Julie Pedigo, TN	
Jayson Hill, TX	
Reagan Pillack, TX	
Ben Grove, VA	

committee reports

partner development

We recommend:

School and Community Involvement

1. To develop a presentation outline for state officers on partner development and retention based on the "Get Connected" handbook. The presentation's target audience will be local chapter leadership.
2. To include a page on the partner development section of the National FFA web site that will reinforce how to build school- and community-based partners, encourage partner retention and appreciation.
3. To use the *FFA New Horizons* magazine to raise awareness of students and teachers about partner development links on the National FFA home page.
4. Better organization of the partner development web page to make it easier for community and school leaders to find relevant partner links and continue to increase the number of these links.

Building Partnerships

1. To have the Teacher Services Team and Communications Resources Team develop a program to promote partnerships. The program may include, but is not limited to, news releases, advertisements and recognition.
2. To provide training at NLC SO on the "Get Connected" handbook, enabling state officers to spread the word to agriculture teachers/advisors during workshops or intern services.
3. The Teacher Services Team to sponsor a partnership grant program for state officers similar to the existing recruitment/retention grants.
4. The National FFA Organization to promote partner development by providing convention speakers and workshops targeting this topic.

Material Information

1. The National FFA to strengthen the importance of partners in the community development section of the National Chapter Award application and Program of Activities.
2. That all Partner Development materials be available online and/or send to each chapter one free packet (including "Get Connected").
3. The Partners' table-top displays be sent to each state convention.
4. The National FFA Organization to work with agricultural industry publications to familiarize present and potential partners with the FFA and the opportunities to provide their support.
5. The National Organization to develop and distribute materials that help states create publications to inform partners of the achievements of members.
6. The National Organization to develop and distribute an idea pamphlet that will help chapters develop and improve partner relations and increase support.

Alumni Relations

1. The National FFA to provide grants to states for alumni plans and ideas similar to the recruitment and retention grants.
2. *FFA New Horizons* to create an alumni theme for one section annually.
3. To create an alumni/member function at national convention such as a discussion panel, luncheon or workshop.
4. To have collegiate FFA activities at the national convention to link Collegiate FFA to the FFA Alumni.

Rebecca Kyles, WI	Jeremy Fletcher, WV
Jessica Clark, WY	Ryan Bailey, MT
Julie Pedigo, TN	Jessica Clark, OK
Jayson Hill, TX	Bryan Humphreys, IA
Trevor Weaver, CA	Noel Vargas, PR
Candice Stock, NY	Becky Kyles, WI
Colleen Griswold, MO	Jessica Skinner, NC
Paul Harding, TX	Sarah Clemenson, MN
Andy Vance, OH	Becky Luke, OK
Heather Holley, MS	Dane White, CA
Jessica Thomas, CA	Becca Wherry, AR
Mathew Sweeza, WA	Michelle Vieira, CA
Hilary Sepe, CT	Emily Tyson, GA
Lance Zollinger, ID	Jared Nussbaum, IN
Heath Rutherford, NM	Amy Sakers, PA
Jeff Petter, TX	Jeremy Fletcher, WV
Amanda Thompson, TX	Kendra Kelton, OK
Lindsey Land, FL	Heather Holley, MS
Dane White, CA	Jessica Thomas, CA
Becca Wherry, AR	Mathew Sweeza, WA
Michelle Vieira, CA	Hilary Sepe, CT
Emily Tyson, GA	Lance Zollinger, ID
Jared Nussbaum, IN	Heath Rutherford, NM
Amy Sakers, PA	Jeff Petter, TX
Jeremy Fletcher, WV	
Amanda, Thompson, TX	
Jeremy Fletcher, WV	
Kendra Kelton, OK	
Lindsey Land, FL	

committee reports



The nominating committee has the tough job of determining new national officers.

Front Row:
(left to right)
Wendie Wallis,
Katy Poth, Rob
Shafer and
Ginger Bright.
Back Row:
(left to right)
Abel
Wurmnest,
Casey Roats,
Matthew
Webber, Lance
Kuenning and
Barrett Keene.

auditing

Auditing:

We recommend:

1. Accepting the audit as a clean audit and as presented.
2. Keeping the national dues at the current amount of \$5 for the 2000-2001 year.

Respectfully submitted:

Christal Etchells, RI (Chair)
Corrine Blum, MA (Secretary)
Melissa Swenson, UT
Ryan Maloch, AR
Bill Leib, PA
Karrie Blake, CO
Amy Kenley, AK
Josh Worthington, MO

nominating

We, the Nominating Committee, have given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants running for a national office. The committee nominates the following slate of candidates to the delegates at the 72nd National FFA Convention to serve as national officers for the year 1999-2000.

National Treasurer: Marion Fletcher, Arkansas
National Executive Secretary: C. Coleman Harris, Washington, D.C.
National Advisor: Larry D. Case, Washington, D.C.
Vice President Central Region: Leslie Small, Arkansas City, Kansas
Vice President Eastern Region: Joe Shultz, DeGraff, Ohio
Vice President Southern Region: Carol Spruill, Hoschton, Georgia
Vice President Western Region: Marshall Baker, Portales, New Mexico
National Secretary: Jodee Ruppel, North Manchester, Indiana
National President: Chris Vitelli, Plant City, Florida

Respectfully submitted:

Ginger Bright, OK (Chair)
Abel Wurmnest, IL (Vice Chair)
Robert Bell, SD
Karen Hutchison, DE
Charles Keels, NC
Barrett Keene, FL
Lance Kuenning, NE
Katy Poth, OH
Casey Roats, OR
Rob Shafer, NM
Robert Torres, NM
Wendie Wallis, AR
Matthew Webber, DE

national FFA convention

We recommend:

Experience and Impact

- *1. Create an entertainment brochure or poster that highlights local attractions such as concerts, shopping malls, amusement parks, restaurants and the career fair to send directly to school and agricultural advisors to publicize all possible activities.
2. Send promotional videos to state associations highlighting convention experiences such as a day in the life of a FFA member at national convention
3. Have members submit positive personal experiences to *FFA New Horizons* magazine, stating their own personal experiences or snapshots of their trip.
4. Make members more aware of workshops and activities at convention through commercials, posters and flyers. These methods should state the date, time, presenter and main focus of the workshop or activity.

Membership

- *1. Create a day conference within the convention for younger members.
2. Provide video and information packet to distribute to chapters.
3. Offer national convention survey online with raffle prizes.
4. Provide a game area to focus on agricultural trivia during down time (i.e. chapter feuds, Wheel of Fortune).
5. Create a scavenger hunt with prizes to incorporate all aspects of national convention.
6. Provide international food court to promote diversity.
7. Provide workshops dealing with regional diversity.

Respectfully Submitted:

Sarah Geiger, KS (Chair)
Brandon Davis, MS (Vice-Chair)
Sarah Biddle, PA
Jamie Rivers, SC
Abby Dewberry, AL
Lilybeth Colon, PR
Jennifer Edwards, AL
Bobbie Jo Tomac, SD
Brandy Schall, AR
Craig Phillips, TN
Raney Grissom, AZ (Co-Chair)
Holli Turner, TN
Deanna Richmond, CA
Dustin LeNorman, TX
Tracy Schohr, CA
Dustin Pearson, TX

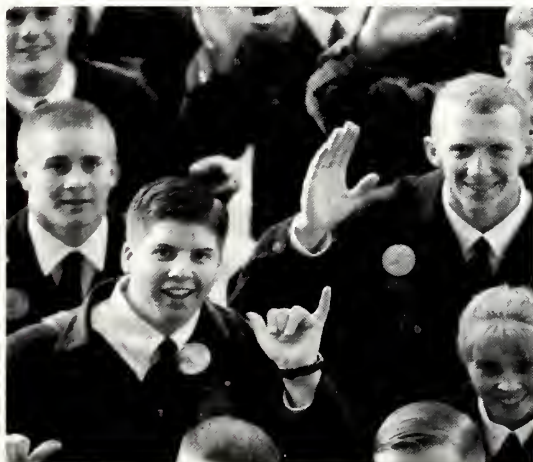
committee reports

Convention Review

- *1. Provide more private and professional facilities for CDE's (i.e. noise level and preparation area).
2. Contain convention activities such as interviews within the convention area (i.e. Executive Inn and Executive West Hotels).
3. Create and send by mail a CDE-specific survey to send to advisors of all CDE participants, focusing on privacy, facilities, flow of contest and location.
4. Create a separate entrance to convention hall for delegates, advisors and VIPs.
5. Increase shuttle service for all hotels to convention facilities.
6. Create off-area walkways to increase after hour security of FFA shopping mall and career show.
7. Examine, and if necessary, reconstruct configuration of food court and shopping mall to utilize unoccupied space to fullest potential.
8. Establish "FFA Lighting Up Louisville" as a tradition (i.e. fireworks).
9. Analyze state and delegate photo quality and change if needed.
10. Develop ideas to commend Louisville for hosting the national FFA convention.

Activities in Action

- *1. To provide training and incentives (i.e. dinner, t-shirts, and award programs) to increase the quantity and quality to Courtesy Corps, due to the concern of short staffing and enforcement of FFA members code of conduct and official dress at all sessions.
2. Create a supplement of the national convention guidebook called The Yellow Pages of Louisville for FFA members, which should include climate, places of interests, malls, restaurants, hotels, parks, etc.
3. Posters at hotels' doors with convention schedule.
4. To improve information given in *FFA New Horizons* and on the web page, concerning national convention and community activities (i.e. actual photos and maps of the city).
5. Provide informal time to mingle with national officers.
6. Continue the John Deere shuttles.



It's always hard to say good-bye ...
But these students have acquired
memories and FFA friendships to
last a lifetime.

Amber Simmons, CA
Lyndsey Schneider, TX
Marcelo Soares, CA
Phillip Smith, TX
Renee Melton, FL
Jess Widner, TX
Joanna Griffin, GA
Luke Turner, VA
Brad Hammes, IA
Jessica Mackin, WA
Amber Wiebbecke, IA
Beth Planz, WI
Hillary Lawler, IL
Tyrell Childers, WV (Co-Chair)
Rene Mettler, IL
Jeremy Burkett, WY (Co-Chair)
Megan McMichael, IN
Julie P'Pool, KY
Tim Hall, LA
Jason Bibler, MI
Hector Matthys, MN (Co-Chair)
Shasta Renfrow, MO (Co-Chair)
Christie Flechsenhar, MT (Co-Chair)
Allison McCabe, NC
Aaron Anderson, ND (Co-Chair)
Paul Timm, NE
Amy Fogarty, NH (Co-Chair)
Shad Kyner, NM
Jason Sharp, OH
Matt Adair, OK
Amber Ramsey, OK

1999-2000 national FFA officer team



Chris Vitelli
President
Plant City, Florida

Age: 20
Chapter: Plant City FFA Chapter
Enterprise: feeder swine and steers
State FFA Office: Florida Association
Area V State Vice President
FFA Awards: national extemporaneous public speaking winner, ornamental horticulture demonstration state winner, county star in agribusiness
College and Major: University of Florida, sophomore, double majoring in agricultural education and agricultural leadership
Career Goal: agriculture teacher



Jodee R. Ruppel
Secretary
North Manchester, Indiana

Age: 20
Chapter: Manchester FFA Chapter
Enterprise: sheep production, agricultural communications
State FFA Office: Indiana Association
President
FFA Awards: state winner in leadership, state participant in scrapbook and job interview, majestic eagle leader
College and Major: Purdue University, freshman, agricultural education and telecommunications
Career Goal: agriculture teacher or lobbyist for an agribusiness



Joe Shultz
Eastern Region Vice President
DeGraff, Ohio

Age: 20
Chapter: Indian Lake FFA Chapter
Enterprise: sheep production
State FFA Office: Ohio Association
President
FFA Awards: national FFA scholarship recipient, state prepared public speaking finalist, state sheep production proficiency award finalist
College and Major: The Ohio State University, sophomore, agricultural education
Career Goal: education or human resource management



Leslie Small
Central Region Vice President
Lebanon, Indiana

Age: 19
Chapter: Arkansas City FFA Chapter
Enterprise: diversified livestock
State FFA Office: Kansas Association
President
FFA Awards: national livestock team, state parliamentary law team, state creed winner, state public speaking contest, state dairy team
College and Major: Kansas State University, sophomore, agricultural economics
Career Goal: international agricultural systems



Carol Spruill
Southern Region Vice President
Hoschton, Georgia

Age: 19
Chapter: Jackson County FFA Chapter
Enterprise: horse boarding and showing, hay production
State FFA Office: Georgia Association
President
FFA Awards: national poultry and forestry career development event high individual, state prepared public speaking winner, state electrical wiring winner
College and Major: University of Georgia, sophomore, agricultural economics with an animal science minor
Career Goal: agricultural sales or law



Marshall Baker
Western Region Vice President
Portales, New Mexico

Age: 19
Chapter: Texico FFA Chapter
Enterprise: oil crop and beef production
State FFA Office: New Mexico Association
Vice President and President
FFA Awards: national finalist for oil crop entrepreneurship, member of the national reserve champion parliamentary procedure team, state prepared public speaking and extemporaneous winner, state creed winner, district star farmer
College and Major: Austin College, freshman, biology
Career Goal: agriculture teacher or agribusiness

**Looavull.
Luhvul.
Lewisville.
Looaville.
Looneyville.**

Greater
Louisville *!*

YOUR KIND OF PLACE

ANY WAY YOU SAY IT

National FFA Convention Dates 2000-2005

October 25-28, 2000

October 24-27, 2001

October 30-November 2, 2002

October 29-November 1, 2003

October 27-30, 2004

October 26-29, 2005

The National FFA Organization affirms its belief in the value of all human beings and seeks diversity in its membership, leadership and staff. The *Proceedings* was prepared and published by the National FFA Organization in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education as a service to state and local agricultural education agencies.

FFA Mission

FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

The Agricultural Education Mission

The mission of Agricultural Education is to prepare and support individuals for careers, build awareness and develop leadership for the food, fiber and natural resource systems.



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Building quality programs and putting school-to-career in action